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OF
THINGS JAPANESE

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TOKYO JAPAN

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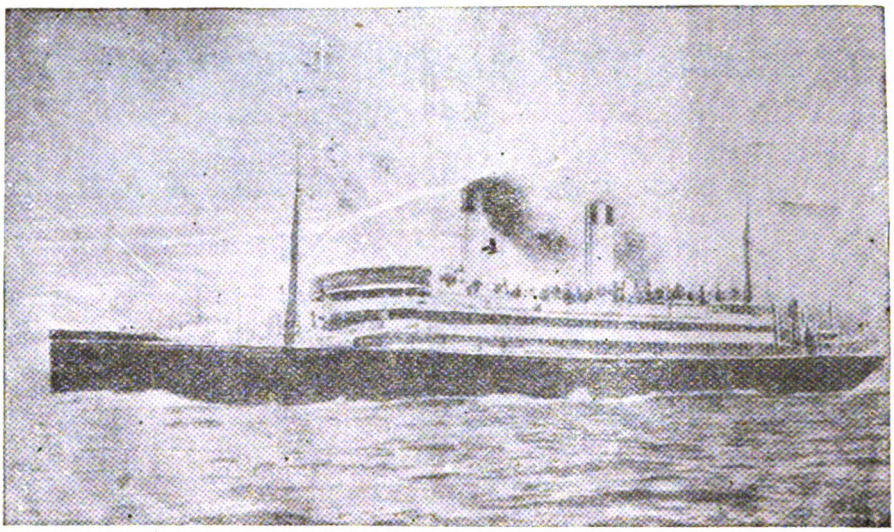

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THE JAPAN MAGAZINE

A REPRESENTATIVE MONTHLY OF THINGS JAPANESE

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A Baseball Match between the Mita and Tomon Teams, the Biggest in Japan
Joute à base ball entre les équipes de Mita et de Tomon

Shell-Gathering at Low Tide, One of the Spring Pleasures
Récolte de coquillages à la basse marée, un des amusements populaires de printemps

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A Pleasant Japanese Spring Scene

Un charmant aspect de printemps au Japon

A Japanese Spring Scene, which is most genial of the year

L'aspect printanier au Japon, qui est le plus agréable de l'année

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THE JAPAN MAGAZINE

VOL. XV APRIL, 1925 No. VIII

The Month In Progress

THE EDITOR'S DIARY

MARCH 16.—The anniversary of the death of Julius Caesar was celebrated on March 15th in the green-room of the Kabuki Theatre, where "Julius Caesar" was played. It was attended by the Italian Ambassador and the Italian Embassy staff. Matsumoto Koshiro represented Caesar, Ichikawa Sadanji, Antony; and Ichikawa Sumizo, Brutos. The ceremony was held before a bust of Caesar.

March 17. — The Russian Embassy buildings in Tokyo, which have been unoccupied since Mr. Kroupensky, the last Ambassador of the Russian Empire, quitted them about five years ago, were transferred to-day by the Tokyo Prefectural Office to Secretaries of Embassy appointed by the Soviet Government, who preceded the arrival of the new Ambassador.

March 18.—An Atami despatch states that General Miura, a veteran statesman, who was in a critical condition on the 16th, is rallying miraculously.

March 21.—The project is being considered by the Governor and people of Yamanashi Prefocture to develop the northern part of Mt. Fuji's base for a pleasure resort and villas. Governor Homma met 10 prominent business men in Tokyo on the 20th and talked over the scheme, which is taking concrete form.

March 22.—It is understood that this summer the Prince Regent will visit Saghalien, where he will go by warship, sailing from Yokosuka, at the beginning of August. The journey will take about two weeks.

March 23.—It has been decided by the Tokyo Municipal Social Educational Section to establish a night school for labourers, giving them education for citizenship and social training. There will be three courses, preparatory, main and post-graduate. In the main course, lessons will be given in sociological ethics, jurisprudence, politics, economics, psychology, sociology, philosophy, foreign literature, astronomy, physiography, social politics and English. Men and women labourers not younger than 18, who can understand the lessons in the preparatory course, will be admitted. This is the first schoel of the kind as a Municipal enterprise in this country.

March 24.—It is reported from Dairen that Dr. Omi and two other physicians of

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the Dairen Hospital, Manuchuria have succeeded after two years' experiments in finding that man without gastric juice can keep in health and can work as usual, digesting completely ordinarily cooked grain, beef, fish, etc. and absorbing nutrition. This is a new record in the world's medical socience. The same physicians have also succeeded in finding a process of curing cancer of the stomach by a major operation, solving one of the most difficult medical questions. These discoveries will be announced by the physicians at a national meeting of medical men to be held shortly at the Fukuoka Medical College.

March 25.—Another medical discovery is regarding pleurisy. This stands at the head of military disease problems. The key has now been found for the solution of this great question by Surgeon-Capitain Kamibayashi, whose researches for the prevention of the disease have had a result, which has met with recognition by the Medical Department of the Tokyo Imperial University, which has decided to confer a degree on him.

March 27.—Viscount Goto and his suite left Tokyo for Harbin on the evening of the 26th amidst the cheers of a crowd assembled at Tokyo Station. The Viscount will stay about five days in Harbin and come back to Tokyo about April 17th.

March 28.—As a result of the re-adjustment of armaments, it has been finally decided to abolish the 13th (Takata), 15th (Toyohashi), 17th (Okayama and 18th (Kurume) Divisions.

March 29.—The re-construction of the Yokohama harbour work, totally wrecked by the great earthquake, has been completed, and was celebrated on a large scale on the 28th, when all the ships in the habour were fully dressed and fireworks were sent up from the morning. The celebration at the hatoba was attended by

Transferring of the Russian Embassy Buildings to the New Acting Soviet Russian Ambassador

Remise à l'ambassadeur de la Russie soviétique des bâtiments de l'hôtel de l'ambassade de Russie

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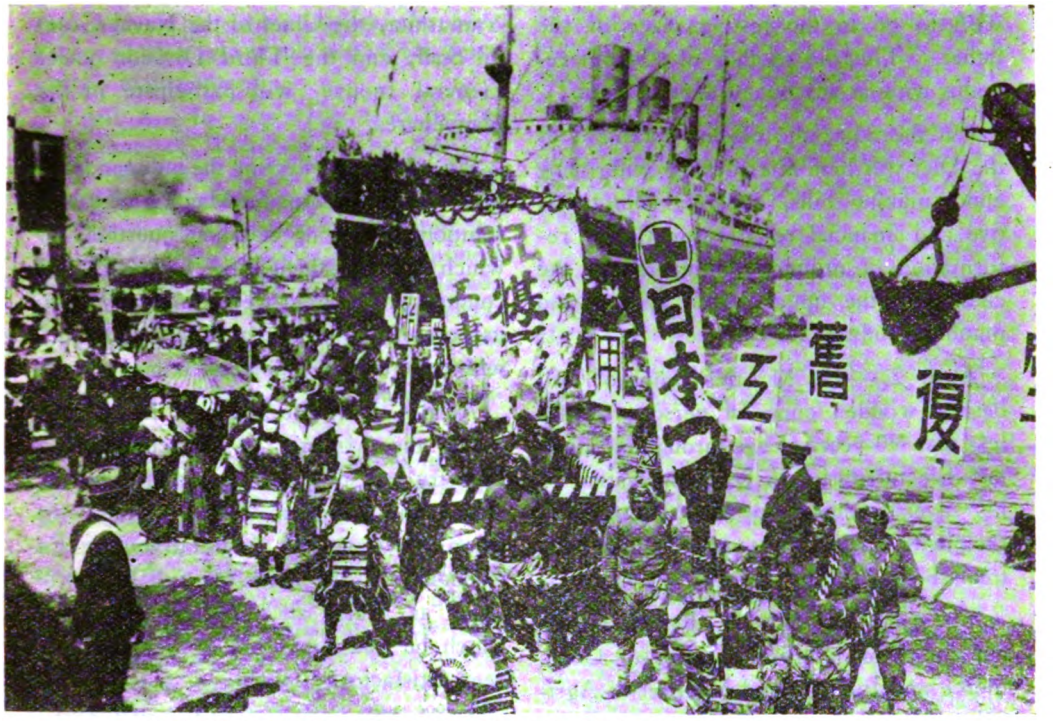

A March Celebrating the Re-Construction of the Yokohama Harbour after the Earthquake. It proceeds along the Customs Pier

Marche triomphale le long du môle de la Douane en rejouissance de la reconstruction du port de Yokohama détruil par le tremblement de terre

thousands of notables, including Princesses of the Blood.

The re-construction cost 10,000,000 yen, defrayed by the Home Department, under the supervision of Dr. Aki.

March 30.—After stormy debates the Manhood Suffrage Bill has at last passed both houses of the Diet.

March 31.—The Department of Agriculture and Commerce has been divided into the Department of Agriculture and Forestry and the Department of Commerce and Industry, with the approval of the Diet. The new organization will come into force on April 1st.

Mr. T. Ichiki has been appointed the Minister of the Imperial Household and Count Makino the Keeper of the Privy Seal. The installation ceremony was held in the Palace on the 30th.

The railway authorities have decided to stop all trains, except the special expresses, at Shimbashi Station from the summer in accordance with the request of a society for the welfare of the Ginza.

April 1.—A young school clerk in Korea, Tatsuji Oshimi, aged 34, made desperate by his dismissal went out in a small boat with his wife and four children to the offing, where they threw themselves into the sea. The boat, which drifted ashore, contained two pairs of clogs and two pairs of small rubber shoes. A letter left behind in the house expressed the

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wish to go to the resting place of the father. The old mother of Oshimi remains without any one to depend upon.

On the 31st, the closing ceremony of the Diet was held after dealing with many epoch-making bills, covering administrative and financial re-adjustment, the reformation of military administration, the change in the upper house system and manhood suffrage.

April 2.—H. M. the Emperor will bestow wooden cups on persons of not less than 90 years of age throughout Japan and her territories in commemoration of his silver wedding on May 10th. The recipients of the cups are estimated to total about 26,000.

On April 1st. Mr. K. Takahashi was appointed ad interim Minister of Commerce and Industry and Minister of Agriculture and Forestry.

A French economic mission sent with the support of the French Government to inspect tradal relations between Japan and France arrived by a French mail steamer at Yokohama on the 1st The same steamer carried also the first Brazilian minister accredited to Japan.

April 3.—The military authorities are considering a further reformation of the military administration and means for national mobilization. The greatest lesson learned from the World War was the progress of arms and national mobilization, in both of which Japan is behind the Western powers. There is no system in Japan to furnish basic materiale for national mobilization, and it is proposed to appoint a commission of inquiry.

Joint Grand Naval and Military manoeuvres will be held in the middle of October in Ise Bay and along the Tokaido. A big combined fleet under Admiral Yamashita, the Chief of the Naval General Staff, and the Third Division under General Inouye, will participate in the manoeuvres.

The Army is effecting the independence of the aviation corps on May 1st next as a solution of a long standing question, by which the aerial fighting force in this country will be improved completely from its present inferior position compared with those of other powers.

April 4.—On the 3rd inst., Mr. Takahashi, the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry and of Commerce and Industry, visited the Premier Viscount Kato, to whom he stated his desire to resign the leadership of the Seiyu-kai and his portfolios as nearly all important que tions, which he had supported in the past, had been satisfactorily solved.

After this interview, Mr. Takahashi met Mr. Inukai, the Minister of Communications, to whom he stated his desire.

April 5.—The Gorvernment has decided to throughly re-adjust the national and local taxes as declared in the Diet, and will shortly appoint an investigation committee. There are said to be two opinions held among the financial authorities, one of which is to fundamentally reform the taxation system by localizing the land and business taxes and creating the property tax as a national tax in their place, while the other opinion is for improving the present methods of taxation and for creating a capital tax, the land and business taxes to be reduced.

April 6.—Mr. Takahashi has signified his intention to recommed General Baron Tanaka to be Seiyukai president believing that the Baraon is an able statesman of wide knowledge and good administrative

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capacity. This recommendation ha been approved at a recent meeting of the Seiyu Party's management.

April 8.—In connection with the resuscitation of Yokohama, no concrete plans have been decided on as yet for inducing foreigners to come to Yokohama and settle there. First of all, hotels and facilities for the re-establishment of business must be provided for. There are already projects for the object under consideration, including, the building of a theater with a capital of about 500,000 yen to be invested in by foreign and Japanes subcribers.

At a regular Cabinet meeting held on the 7th, the resignation of Mr. Takahashi was discussed. The Cabinet members all regretted it, but had to admit it as unavoidable in the existing circumstancess At the same time, it was agreed among them to solidify the coalition of the three Government parties. The Government yet has such important measures to put in operation as administrative and financial reforms.

The Government is taking a national census on October 1st, five years since the previour census in 1920. This census will have a particular significance, as the new voters' register will be prepared on its basis, necessitated by the advent of manhood suffrage. At the same time, unemployment will be investigated among the labouring and intellectual classes. This investigation is expected to furnish material for the adoption of thorough means for the relief of unemployment, and for an unemployment insurance system.

H. I. H. Prince Chichibu is busy preparing for his foreign tour which will start at the end of May, when he will sail from Yokohama by the *Hakozaki-Maru.*

April 9.—The *Akagi*, a naval tender, will be launched at Kure on the 22nd. She will have a displacement of about 25,000 tons and is the most powerful of her type of ship in the world.

April 10.—On the 9th, the ceremony of promoting the peerage rank of Viscount Makino, former Minister of the Imperial Household and now Keeper of the Privy Seal, and Admiral Baron Saito, the Governor of Korea, was held in the presence of the Prince Regent in recognition of their meritorious services to the state. the former became a Count and the latter a Viscount.

Dr. Egi, one of the most promienent lawyers in Japan and an earnest advocate of the july system, died on April 8th. He was 68 years of age.

The southern end of Awa Peninsula has been included in the strategic zone of Tokyo Bay.

H. M. the Emperor has better health now than at this time last year. He has no difficulty in walking and speaking.

April 11.—Baron Tanaka, who was asked to preside over the Seiyu Party in succession to Mr. Takahashi, visited the latter on the 10th and gave his consent to the request.

April 12.—A large pier will be built at Shibaura, Tokyo, in June next. It will accomodate four 3,000 ton steamers.

April 13.—Baron Tanaka has been earnestly desired by the Premier to enter the Ministry, but in consultation with the President and Vice-President of the Seiyu has decided not to do so, as it is considered more advisable to chosc another representative of the party to enter the Cabinet.

April 14.—On the 13th, the Board of Councillors of the Seiyu Party met and unanimously approved the change in its presidency.

April 15.—Count Hirata having been long ill at his villa at Dzushi, passed away at 2 A. M. on the 14th at the age of 77. Having filled important official positions consecutively, he held the portfolio of Agriculture and Commerce in 1901 and was created a Baron in 1902. Later, he was Minister of Home Affairs and was created a Viscount in 1911. In September, 1922, he was appointed Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal and was made a Count. On March 30 1925, he resigned the post.

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A History of the Japanese Stage

IV

THE Genroku era passed and the third period of this history was entered upon, lasting about 70 years from the Kyoho era (1716-1735) to the Temmei era (1781-1788).

Kyoto and Osaka were falling behind the newly created Yedo in civilization and most arts were moving from the west to the east.

One of the representative contemporary actors in Kyoto and Osaka was Anegawa Shinshiro (1685-1749). After performing in the provinces for some years, he first appeared on the stage of the Arashi Theatre, Osaka in the seventh year of Hoyei (1710) at the age of 26. His ability was soon recognized by the citizens. In 1719, he impersonated Kurofune Chuyemon, a man of chivalrous spirit, and won popularity. Since then, he successfully played the part of chivalrous men on the stage in Osaka and Kyoto. In the 17th year of Kyoho (1732), he came to Yedo and played at the Nakamura Theatre. His performances met with great approbation of the Yedo people. Two years later, he went back to the west. In the first year of Kanpo (1741), Danjuro the Second, one of the most prominent actors in Yedo, performed at the Sadoshima Theatre. All other theatres were eclipsed except one of Anegawa, which stood the competition. This did credit to his exceptional ability and great popularity. He died in the 2nd year of Kanyen (1749) at the age of 60.

He played most successfully the role of chivalrous or brave men, which led to the production of a rough and mean disposition in him. This disposition was criticised, however, as a reflection of the manners and taste of society. In his last days, his actions grew simple and old fashioned. The fault lay in part with the plays, but blame was put on him in part for lack of effort to make the most effective use of the plays.

He said of fighting that the small actor should be put on the defensive at first and then take the offensive and win when on the point of being defeated, the way to make him look very brave. This bit of talk bears testimony to his not having been a commonplace actor.

Nakamura Juzo (1694-1770), another representative actor in Kyoto and Osaka, was born of a samurai family, but he and his elder brother went on the stage. He performed only in the provinces at first, playing villains, and then settled in Osaka, where he was gradually promoted in position in ten years, until he became a leading actor in the 4th year of Tenmon (1739). Subsequently, he changed his name to Kichiyemon, transferring his old name to his adopted son. The present Kichiyemon, a famous actor in Tokyo, succeeded to his name. He died in 1770 at the age of 77.

His specialty was to act as a samurai leader. He was a man of dignified and gentlemanly appearance, and had a very penetrating voice, although it was rather hoarse. His actions on the stage were criticised as being to solid and simple, making them monotonous.

Nakayama Shinkuro (1702-1775), who also is counted among the representative actors in Kyoto and Osaka, came out in Osaka in the 8th year of Kyoho (1723).

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He gained in popularity and at last became the leader of a company. He performed in Kyoto in the 4th year of Genbun (1739) and then in Yedo in the first year of Kanpo (1741). He played with Sawamura Sojuro in the latter place and was fabourably criticised. He came back to Osaka the year following. He died in the 4th year of Anyei (1875) at the age of 74.

He was best at playing neither the part of chivalrous or brave men like Anekawa Shinshiro nor that of leading samurai like Juzo, but the roles of great villains. He succeeded as a leading actor, too. He had as his strong points a good physique and a clear voice. It was said then that while he possessed exceptional talent, he had not ample charm and dignity in his arts. He was adept in dancing, which upheld his reputation.

Kakakiyama Koshiro (1681 - 1747), another representative actor in the two places, was noted for his versatility. Above all, he was an expert dancer.

Arashi Sanyemon the Third (1697-1754), who claims a similar position to the above mentioned, was a real son of Arashi Sanyemon the Second. In the first year of Hoyei (1704), he made his debut in Osaka at the age of 8. He led a company at the Arashi Theatre for twenty-two years. In the 19th year of Kyoho (1734), he came to Yedo and performed at the Nakamura Theatre, but without success. Subsequently, he stayed in Kyoto and Osaka. He made it his forte to enact the *roppo* (an active way of exciting), transmitted from his grandfather, and play the part of lovers of the Sakata Tojuro type. His weak voice and rapid speaking were his greatest shortcomings on the stage.

Among other noted actors were Nakamura Shingoro, Sawamura Otoyemon (1687-1741), Ichiyama Sukegoro (1694-1747), Arashi Sangoro (1687-1739) and Sadoshima Chogoro (1701-1757).

Sadoshima Chogoro, the last named, ranked second among these leading actors. He did much in developing pantomimic dancing. He improved with new devices of his own invention such dances as *gobanningyo* (dancing on a checker-board), *nana-bake* (seven transformations), etc. He excelled as a showman. He succeeded in arranging performances by Danjuro the Second of Yedo at an Osaka theatre. He encouraged Sawamura Sojuro into becoming a famous actor.

For a period after the Horeki era (1751-1763), the following four were noted as leading actors in Osaka and Kyoto.

Mimasu Daigoro (1718-1780) first appeared on the stage as a player of *wakashu* (youths) in the 20 year of Kyoho (1735). In the fifth year of Genbun (1740), he came on the stage in Kyoto as the leader of a company, after years of absence. Later, he played villains. He was white-complexioned and tall. He succeeded mostly in domestic plays, in which he performed as chivalrous men wonderfully well. He well played villains, too. In the 2nd year of Horeki (1752), he took off his clothes on the stage as the teller of a story of wrestlers, for the first time in the theatrical world of Japan.

Fujikawa Hachizo (1730-1777), a son of Fujikawa Heikuro, an actor, became famous by performing at an Osaka theatre in the 2nd year of Horeki (1752). He was large with a white complexion and sour face. His fine apperance as well as his skilful art made him popular.

Arashi Kichisaburo (1737-1780), a pupil of Arashi Kanshiro, went on the

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stage in Osaka in the 8th year of Horeki (1758). He was an expert player of wrestlers and chivalrous men. He died at the age of 44 before his art reached maturity.

Ogawa Kichitaro (1737-1781), a son of Ogawa Goroshiro, an actor, died at the age of 46 before he was fully advanced in his art. He was renowned as a skilful player of simple and honest servants and young lords. Unlike in the Genroku period, there was then no systematic division of work among the actors, and old men and women and villains were played by same leaders. This disarrangement was a progress of art on one side, for when the divisional work system was strictly kept up, the actors could have no freedom to display their ability in other directions than their special parts.

There was then no sufficient number of those skilled in playing villains specially. One of them was Mihoki Gizaemon. He won a reputation as such a player. He belonged to the family of Kataoka Nizayemon, and the present Kataoka Nizayemon is expected to succeed to the name in future.

Fujikawa Heikuro (1698-1761), a grandson of Fujikawa Buzayemon, was the biggest player of villains, He trod the stage first in the 6th year of Kyoto (1721). In the 19th year of the same era (1734), he was counted among the first rate actors, and in the 3rd year of Enkyo (1746), he was ranked first as a player of villains. He was most successful in the representation of wicked men of obstinate nature and looked rather too brutal at times. His art reached maturity at the age of about 58 in the 5th year of Horeki (1755).

Arashi Shichigoro was his rival. He came on the stage of Osaka as the leader of a company in the 14th year of Kyoho (1729). He gradually grew popular as a player of villains and became equally famous to Fujikawa in the 2nd year of Genbun (1737). He also was rather too brutal in action. He wrote plays, which he put on the stage, but without success.

The above are the representative leaders and villain players of the age in Kyoto and Osaka. Looking into the stage in Yedo, we find Ichikawa Danjuro the Second and Sawamura Sojuro the First, who were equally prominent to the above Kyoto and Osaka men. Their appearance and performance enlivened the theatrical world of Yedo, which had been extremely quiet for a time.

Ichikawa Danjuro the Second (1688-1758), a son of the predecessor, made his debut at the age o 10. At the end of the Genroku era, his father was killed on the stage. The event precipitated the young heir's theatrical position, for he was not yet so proficient in the art and had not sufficient weight to be worthy of the position, which had been held simply through the influence of his father. This stirred him up. He supplicated the Acara Shrine at Narita to make him a better actor than his father, who had an annual income of 800 *ryo*. This prayer seems to have been heard, for he earned 1,270 *ryo* in middle age.

In the first year of Hoyei (1704), he appeared on the stage of the Yamamura Theatre and succeeded to his father's name as Ichikawa Danjuro the Second. An interesting story is told of him. In a play, he impersonated one, who entered the scene, binding an opponent and leading him by the rope. The latter was the possessor of a fine frame, while he was small and young. He feared that he would look weaker than the man bound. So he devised that the end of the rope, with which the person was bound, was pulled up suddenly by two men at the entrance. At this, the person tottered, when Danjuro came out quietly, with the rope-end in hand. He looked then very commanding.

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Seeing this, one old actor said in the most flattering terms that he promised to be a great actor.

In the 6th year of Kyoho (1721), his play at the Morita Theatre drew large houses for 280 days. This made him so high in the esteem of the theatre proprietor that he was granted a yearly salary of 1,000 *ryo* and permission to take a summer vacation during June of the old calendar. Since then, first rate actors were distinguished from common actors popularly by the name of *senryo-yakusha* (1,000 *ryo* actors).

In the 20th year of Kyoho (1716), when he was 48 years of age, he was re-named Ebizo, his old name being succeeded to by his adopted son. In the first year of Kanpo (1741), he performed at the Sadoshima Theatre, Osaka, accepting the engagement of its proprietor, Sadoshima Chogoro, who offered such liberal terms that he was paid 2,000 *ryo* for a run.

At his first appearance, he spoke in his lines of *uiro-uri*, a peddler of *uiro* (a Chinese medicine) from Odawara to Yedo. When he was about to speak, one of the spectators, (perhaps pre-arranged) said just what he intended to speak. He thanked him and with his hands on the floor he spoke quickly and fluently what the spectator had spoken, from the end to the beginning. The mischievous man's plan to flurry and shame the Yedo actor was frustrated by this witty requital. The event enhanced his reputation in Osaka.

The next year he played Narukami, a favourite play of Danjuro the First, at the same theatre. It had full houses for 170 days, by which his ability was fully recognized by the Osaka and Kyoto men. In the meantime, Danjuro the Third, his successor, had died in Yedo. He came back to Yedo and adopted Matsumoto Koshiro the Second to be Danjuro the Fourth. He died in the 8th year of Horeki at the age of 71.

Although not large in body, he had fine and manly features, with plump cheeks, large eyes, high nose and big mouth. Like his father, he excelled at *aragoto* and *budo* (military performances). At the same time, he was good at the part of lovers such as Sukeroku and Kamiya Jihei. He was also a good speaker.

Sukeroku had never been impersonated before him. The plot was what that a samurai called Daidoji Tabatanosuke made an *otokodate* (a man of chivalrous spirit) known as Sukeroku. The play was entitled *Hanayakata-Aigo-Zakura*. Later, the plot was partly modified so that Soga-no-Goro made Sukeroku, a chivalrous man, and frequented the gay quarters of the Yoshiwara in search for the robber and wearer of the sacred sword Tomokiri-Maru of the Gen family, as a result of which he fell in love with Agemaki, a very popular prostitute, and killed Hige-no-Rikyu, his rival in love, who happened to be the robber of the sword. Danjuro designed Sukeroku's costume, and this design has been adopted without the least change down to the present date as one of the monopolized plays of Ichikawa family.

Danjuro the Second was not a realist and made a point of exaggeration. He emerged from the cellar lifting up a house with one hand. Seeing this, Sawamura Sojuro advised him to use both hands in lifting the house. Danjuro replied that one hand was better for manifesting how strong Soga-no-Goro was, since a house could not be lifted up even with both hands. This shows the difference in the idea of the art between the two.

Sawamura Sojuro (1689-1756), a son of a samurai in the employ of a Kyoto noble, was profligate and became a hanger-on of Sawamura Chojuro the First. Later, he was employed as a clerk in the green-room and then went on the stage. He left his master's house, regretting that he was not allowed to use the professional name of Sawamura by his master. For years he wandered about in the provinces and returned to his master through the mediation of Sawamura Shirogoro, his fellow pupil. He appeared before a Kyoto audience again in the 1st year of Kyoho (1716), when he was re-named Sawamura Zengoro. In 1717, he acted as Watonai, the hero of the play Kokusenya, in the place of Anegawa Shinshiro, who was absent on account of illness. He won

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great applause. Still he was not promoted in position. He was discontented and quit the place again. For a time, he was in Ise and the went to Yedo following the advice of Sadoshima Chogoro, who saw in him the temperament of a great actor. He himself changed his name to Sawamura Sojuro and joined a company in Yedo in the third years of Kyoho (2718). In this place, too, he was employed in subordinate parts.

In the play of Karigane Bunshichi, he acted as the one who arrested Karigane, who was impersonated by Danjuro the Second. He was pitched into an indigo dye-vat by Karigane. He crept out of it and fought with the criminal in a comic manner, which won favour and elevated him somewhat in the eyes of the spectors. Soon, an event took place, which paved the way for his rapid advancement.

It happened that Nakamura Kichitaro who impersonated Soga-no-Juro became suddenly ill and was absent from the stage. No suitable man to take his place could be found at once. Ogawa Zengoro, the player of Kudo Suketsune, recommended Sojuro. Danjuro the Second, who played Soga-no-Goro, the young brother of Juro, hesistated to employ him for such an important position but was forced to accept the recommendation.

At the end of an act, Danjuro met Zengoro and inquired of him with astonishment what had led him to recommend the subordinate actor to, whom he found to be full of experience and ability. Zengoro replied that once, when he played Kudo Suketsune at the Morita Theatre, Sojuro acted as Inubo-Maru, a son of Suketsune, and kindly helped him down from the ladder after the act every day, that at first he supposed him to be simply caring for an old man, but when he more thought over it, he saw that Sojuro as Inubo-maru, a son of Suketsune, had an affection for the father not merely in the act but even after that, and that seeing this he thought the man to distinguish himself in future.

Sojuro made his way steadily and ranked second among the actors in Yedo, in the 20th year of Kyoho (1735) the first position being held by Danjuro the Second.

In the 1st year of Genbun (1736), he played Uno-no-Yoshibei at the Nakamura Theatre, killing a young brother of his wife by mistake for money. He wore a custum with embroidery of herons and cows in white and black, and a purple hood. This has been a typical costume of the hero since then and the hood has been called *Sojuro-zukin*.

In the third year of Kanpo (1743) he visited Kyoto and Osaka and it was 26 years since he left there.

In the 4th year of Enkyo (1747), he played with Danjuro the Second and Segawa Kikunojo, a famous actor playing the part of women. People called it a company of 3,000 *ryo*, or three 1,000 *ryo* actors.

Subsequently, he succeeded to the name of Chojuro, his master, making over his old name to Harugoro, one of his pupils. The latter soon died, and the name was succeeded to by Shirogoto, another pupil. The name has been transmitted to the present seventh generatipn. Chojuro later changed his name to Suketakaya Takasuke. He died in the 6th year of Horeki.

He was more versatile than Danjuro the Second and succeeded in playing roles of warriors, lovers and others. He was the best impersonator of Oishi Kuranosuke, the head of the forty-seven ronin. He was weak in dancing, as he went on the boards in early manhood, before which he had not been trained in dancing.

He was the best rival of Danjuro the Second on the Stage. Each respected highly the art and presonality of the other. Danjuro was an idealist, while Sojuro was a realist. He valued artifice and naturalism. He surpassed Danjuro in versatility while Danjuro was superior to him in grandeur.

When he visited Osaka after 26 years' absence, he met Sadoshima Chogoro, who had advised him to go to Yedo, and heartily thanked him. He spoke with Chogoro of his dark days and was not proud of his later success. This does him credit as a man of high personality.

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The Official System of Japan

TO a Japanese the working of the official system of his own country is as easily comprehensible as that of England or China is to an Englishman or a Chinese. Once in an interview, an American gentleman said to the Mayor of Tokyo by way of compliment, "I hope you will soon reach the post of Governor." The Mayor looked perplexed at this remark, for in Japan the Mayor of Tokyo is looked upon with more respect than a local Governor and so does not look to advancement to that position, whereas the gentleman was comparing it to a state governorship of America. The Mayor of Tokyo like the Lord Mayor of London, has an exalted status, and though a civilian is respected more highly than a prefectural governor. Except the last Mayor, H. E. Mr. Hidejirô Nagata, all the preceding Mayors of Tôkyô were either ex-Ministers of State or men of equal abilities or honour.

The centre of government of Japan is the Ministry. The head of the Ministry is the Prime Minister. The Ministry consists of the following departments:

Department of Foreign Affairs (Foreign Office).
Department of Home Affairs (Home Office).
Department of Army (War Office).
Department of Navy (Navy Office).
Department of Justice.
Department of Education.
Department of Agriculture and Forestry.
Department of Commerce and Industry.
Department of Communications.
Department of Railways.

Besides the above, all such governments as the Chôsen Government-General, Saghalien Government-General, and the South-Sea Government-General directly belong to the Ministry. In the Ministry, under the Premier is the chief secretary, to whom the following bureaus are subordinate:

Bureau of Pensions — deals with the pensions and annuities given to officials.
Bureau of Printing — undertakes the printing of the Official Gazette, postcards, postage stamps, etc., commissioned by the Department of Communications, and also the bank notes issued by the Bank of Japan.
Bureau of Legislation — supervises and examines the acts of legislation, or decrees issued by each of the different Departments.
Bureau of Decorations — transacts the business connected with showing of appreciation where rewards are due, or giving decorations, etc.
Bureau of Colonization—transacts all affairs connected with oversea colonies.
Census Bureau — undertakes census-taking, and all other affairs relative to population.

Besides, all the supreme boards of investigation belong to the Ministry. The head of each Department is a Minister of State, with two vice-Ministers under him, and directs all bureaus belonging to the particular Department, each bureau in turn being governed by a Director. Under such Director are *Sanjikan* (Councillors), *Shokikan* (Secretaries) and *Jimukan* (Executive officers) in the graduations of rank. Of the Councillors only one is a properly so-called councillor while all the rest are appointed as chiefs of the Sections which are the subdivisions of each bureau. But they all, the Councillor proper and others, participate in the formulating of any decree or law to be issued by the particular Department to which they belong. Some of the Secretaries and the Executive officers are assigned the duties of the Chiefs of the Sections or are sometimes allotted duties inferior to the above. The difference of these three designations consists in the difference of ranks of the officials who are appointed to those duties.

The vice-Ministers are two in number, one from the political party in power, and the other a standing functionary entrusted with the execution of actual business. This two-fold appointment is to secure the continuity of government business, by

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the stationary vice-Minister, in the emergencies of the change of the cabinet. The other vice-Minister, a party man, is of course liable to resignation with the change of the cabinet to which he belongs. Each of the Ministers keeps a secretary or two under him.

Now we shall give a list showing what kind of transactions are undertaken by the different bureaus belonging to each of the ten Departments of the Government:

The Department of Foreign Affairs:

Bureau of Asiatic Affairs—transacts all diplomatic affairs pertaining to Asia.

Bureau of European & American Affairs — transacts all diplomatic affairs pertaining to Europe and America.

Bureau of Commerce — transacts all the affairs pertaining to international commerce.

Bureau of Treaty — transacts all the business pertaining to the international treaties.

Bureau of Intelligence — transacts the transmitting or receiving of international news.

Besides these bureaus, it need hardly be said that all the Ambassadors, Ministers, *Charges d'Affaires*, Consuls - General, Consuls, representing Japan are under the Foreign Office.

The Department of Home Affairs:

Bureau of Shrines — transacts the business pertaining to the *Shinto* shrines and Buddhist temples.

Bureau of Provinces — transacts the affairs pertaining to the home provinces.

Bureau of Social Affairs — transacts all the affairs relative to social policies.

Bureau of Police Affairs — transacts all the affairs pertaining to policing and maintenance of peace.

Bureau of Civil Engineering—transacts all the affairs pertaining to the civil engineering works carried out at home.

Bureau of Sanitary Affairs — transacts all the affairs pertaining to the sanitary measures adopted at home.

Bureau of City Planning — transacts the affairs pertaining to the city planning of such great cities as Tôkyô, Osaka, etc.

Besides the above, all the prefectural governments are under the Home Office.

The Department of Finance:

Bureau of Accountantship—supervises all the national accounts.

Bureau of Taxes — transacts all the affairs pertaining to taxation.

Bureau of Finance — transacts all the affairs pertaining to finances.

Bureau of Banking — transacts all the affairs pertaining to banking business.

The Mint—transacts the business of minting coins (the bank notes are made by the Printing Bureau).

Bureau of Monopolies — transacts the monopoly of tobacco and salt.

The custom-hou es, tax offices, and brewery testing offices are also under the same Department.

The Department of the Army:

Personnel Bureau — transacts all the promotions or appointments or metes out punishment in the army.

Bureau of Military Affairs—transacts all military affairs.

Bureau of Ordnance — transacts the business concerning the ordnance and other war arms.

Paymaster's Bureau—transacts accounts, clothing stuff, provisions, building, etc.

Medical Affairs Bureau—transacts all medical affairs in the army.

Horse Administration Bureau—transacts the business concerning army horses.

Aviation Bureau—transacts the business pertaining to airships and aeroplanes.

Legal Affairs of Bureau—transacts all the legal affairs the army.

The Department of the Navy:

Naval Affairs Bureau—transacts all the naval affairs.

Personnel Bureau — transacts identical business with that of the corresponding bureau in the War Department.

Naval Ammunition Bureau—*do.*

Bureau of Engines — transacts the business concerning the engines in warships.

Medical Affairs Bureau—does business similar to the corresponding bureau in the War Department.

Paymaster's Bureau—*do.*

Legal Affairs Bureau—*do.*

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The Department of Justice:

Personnel Bureau — transacts business identical with the similar bureaus in the above-mentioned Departments.

Civil Affairs Bureau—transacts all the civil affairs.

Penal Affairs Bureau — transacts all criminal cases.

Prison Bureau — transacts all affairs pertaining to the prisons.

The Supreme Court or Court of Cassation, the Courts of Appeal, the Local Courts of Justice and the Prisons are under this Department.

The Department of Education:

Bureau of Technical Education—transacts all the affairs pertaining to colleges and universities.

Bureau of Common Education—transacts the affairs pertaining to the middle schools and all the inferior schools.

Bureau of Vocational Education—transacts all affairs pertaining to the commercial schools, agricultural schools, etc., of middle grade.

Library Bureau — transacts all affairs pertaining to the public libraries and school text-books.

Bureau of Religions — transacts the business pertaining to the supervision of the religions.

The Imperial Universities and all the other Government schools are under this Department.

The Dep't. of Agriculture and Forestry:

Bureau of Agriculture — the name explains itself.

Bureau of Forestry—*do.*

Bureau of Marine Industry—*do.*

Bureau of Foodstuffs — manages the foodstuff problems of national importance.

The Dep't. of Commerce and Industry:

Bureau of Commerce—*do.*

Bureau of Industry—*do.*

Bureau of Polytechnics—*do.*

Bureau of Mining—*do.*

The Government Iron Foundry, the Patent Bureau, the Sericultural Laboratory, the Raw Silk Testing Office, the Stock-farming Laboratory, the Forestry Offices, the Mining Offices are all under this Department.

The Department of Communications:

Bureau of Communications — transacts all business pertaining to postal service, telegraphs, etc.

Bureau of Electricity — transacts all supervisory business pertaining to electrical enterprises.

Bureau of Shipping—transacts all affairs pertaining to shipping.

Paymaster's Bureau—transacts the accountant business of the Department.

Savings Bureau—transacts the business pertaining to postal savings.

Bureau of Postal Life Assurance — transacts the Government life assurance business.

The Bureau of Superintendance of Postal and Telegraphic Service (which undertakes the superintendance of local post offices), the Bureau of Light-houses, etc., are under this Department.

The Department of Railways:

Railway Supervision Bureau — supervises the general railway business.

Bureau of Transportation—transacts the business pertaining to transportation.

Bureau of Inauguration —transacts the business pertaining to the laying down of new railways.

Bureau of Railway Works—transacts the planning of new works and attends to equipment already in use.

Manufacturing Bureau—undertakes the manufacturing of the rolling stock and accessories.

Bureau of Electricity—transacts the business pertaining to electric cars and other electrical accommodations.

Paymaster's Bureau—transacts the accountant business belonging to this Department.

The Privy Council, etc.

The following institutions, not belonging to the Ministry, are directly subject to H. I. M. the Emperor:

(1) The Privy Council.—This is the supreme council of state, open to the personal inquiries by H. I. M. the Emperor and is also endowed with the power to discuss the laws, international treaties, etc., as related to the highest policies of the Empire.

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The Council consists of the President, vice-President and the Councillors (24 in number) who are appointed from among scholars and officials who have rendered distinguished services in the cause of the state. It may be mentioned that Baron Shigenobu Hirayama, proprietor of the *Japan Magazine* is one of the councillors.

(2) The Board of the Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal.—Under the Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal there are two secretaries, one the chief secretary and the other the under-secretary, who constitute the staff of this Board. The Lord Keeper acts as amanuensis for the Emperor and assists his Majesty in the execution of his duties. He also transacts affairs with the Government in behalf of the Emperor. The chief duty, however, of the Lord Keeper is to have the Imperial seal in safe keeping.

(3) The Imperial Household Department.—This transacts all business connected with the Imperial Household. The chief of this Department is the Imperial Household Minister, who is assisted by the vice-Minister. Under this Department are:

Lord Chamberlains, who are 14 in number, headed by the Chief Lord Chamberlain and the deputy Chief Lord Chamberlain (sometimes two in number). Their duty is to wait on the person of H.I.M. the Emperor.

Board of Court Ceremonies, which takes in hand all the ceremonies at Court. To this Board belong the two Sections of *Shinto* ceremonies and Falconry, which are both unique institutions in the Japanese Court at present.

Imperial Mausoleums Bureau, which takes care of the Imperial tombs.

Library Bureau, which provides for the books to be used at Court.

Bureau of Court Physicians, the dispensary at Court.

Board of Cookery, has charge of the Imperial cuisine.

Bureau of Finance, which deals with the finances of the Court.

Bureau of Construction, which controls the construction or repair of the palaces.

Bureau of Equerries, which has charge of the horses for the Imperial use.

Besides the above, the Imperial Crown Prince's Household, the Imperial Forestry Bureau, the Peers' Schools, the Imperial Museum, Tokyo are under the governance of this Department. Especially the Imperial Bureau of Poetry is an institution founded by the late Emperor Meiji, who was remarkably fond of poetry. Indeed, a similar institution was once in existence in the long-ago days of the Heian period, and was restored by the great emperor. The Poetry Bureau annually selects a theme for competition by the general public, who are at liberty to contribute their verses on that theme. The Bureau then makes a selection of the best pieces among those thus contributed for honour. At ordinary periods the Bureau makes it its duty to appreciate the poems made by members of the Imperial family.

(4) The Board of Audit—This board is entrusted with the auditing of the accounts of all the Government offices and is empowered to bring to justice perpetrators of any defalcation or similar offence.

Besides all these, the Court of Administrative Litigation is also directly under the Emperor, ready to take in hand any appeals brought in by the people against any injustice committed by the administrative officials.

The Metropolitan Police Board.

The Metropolitan Police Board is a special institution, committed with the execution of police affairs connected with the capital of Japan. Independent of the

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prefectural and the municipal authorities of Tokyo, the board is attached to the Home Office, having connection with the Police Bureau of that Department, though in fact financially it is maintained at the expense of the prefecture, subject to the approval of the prefectural assembly. The chief of the Board is liable to change when a Ministry goes out of office. The increase of the police is in the proportion of one to the increase of the citizens by 300-800.

The Local Governors.

The local administration is carried on by the prefectural governments, the prefectures being called either *fu* or *ken* according to the importance of interests vested in each prefecture, the former of course more important. The chief functionaries are the Governor; the chief of the Bureau of Prefectural Administration; the chief of the Police Bureau; the chief of the Industrial Bureau; Secretaries four or six in number; and some experts. Under the prefectural authorities are the county governors, who are entrusted with the administration of the counties.

Ranks of Government Officials.

The Government officials are of four ranks, which are *hannin*, *sônin*, *chokunin*, and *shinnin* in an ascending scale. The lowest class of officials of *hannin* (appointed by recognition) rank are those appointed after passing the examination for common civil service. The subordinate officials or clerks of all the Departments and also the police all belong to this class, which is again divided into four grades. The second class called *sônin* (appointed through the recommendation by the Premier to the Throne) are those officials who have passed the examination for high civil service. This class is divided into six grades, counting from the third grade up to the ninth. The *hannin* officials are in a fair way to promotion to this upper rank by virtue of signal service or superior talent. The third class called *chokunin* (appointed by Imperial nomination) are those officials who are appointed without any form of examination. This class is divided into two grades, first and second. What characterises the form of appointment for this class of officials is the Imperial seal affixed to the documents testifying to their appointment. The *shinnin* (appointed directly by the Emperor) officials are the Ministers of State, the Presiding Judge of the Supreme Court, the Attorney-General, the Ambassadors Plenipotentiary, Generals and Admirals, etc.

In the military and naval service, the corporal, the sergeant, the sergeant-major belong to the *hannin* class, while the officers from the sub-lieutenant (second lieutenant in the Navy) upward to the colonel (captain) belong to the *sônin* rank and the Major-General or Rear-Admiral and the Lieut.-General or Vice-Admiral are of the *chokunin* rank.

The characteristic affix to the Japanese official titles is the honorific titles which are of two classes, known by the names of *shô* (Principal) and *ju* (Subordinate), each consisting of eight grades and in the order of superiority the first grade of the "Principal" line precedes the first grade of the "Subordinate" line, thus all the other corresponding grades of both lines alternating in a descending scale.

The officials of the *hannin* rank who have seen long service or the high officials of the *sônin* rank in the eighth and ninth grades are granted the eighth rank of the "Principal" line, and thence the grades of this honorific title of the high officials go upward almost parallel with the grades of their official rank, thus the seventh grade of the *sônin* rank is granted the seventh grade of the "Subordinate" line, the sixth grade the seventh grade of the "Principal" line, the fifth grade the sixth grade of the "Subordinate" line, the fourth grade the sixth grade of the "Principal" line, the third grade the fifth grade of the "Subordinate" line. The officials of the *chokunin* rank in the second grade are granted either of the fifth grades of both lines or the fourth grade of the "Subordinate" line. Those in the first grade, on the other hand, are granted the fourth grade of the "Principal" line. The high dignitaries of the *shinnin*

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rank are granted the third grade of the "Subordinate" and other grades higher than that. But, generally speaking, the highest grade, that is, the top grade of the "Principal" line is very rarely conferred, the only exception being the late Prince Sanétomi Sanjô, upon whom the title was bestowed while he was still living.

The Government Officials' Salaries.

The Prime Minister receives the annual stipend of Yen 12,000 (about $6,000); the Ministers of State and the Lord Keeper of the Privy Seal Yen 8,000 (about $4,000); the vice-Ministers of State Yen 6,500 (about $3,250); Directors of the Bureaus Yen 5,200 (about $2,600); the Presiding Judge of the Supreme Court Yen 7,500 (about $3,750); the Governor-General of Chôsen like a Minister of State Yen 8,000 (about $4,000); the Governor-General of Formosa Yen 7,500 (about $3,750). The prefectural governor's salary ranges from Yen 6,000 (about $3,000) to Yen 5,200 (about $2,600). The annual salary of the *shinnin* officials ranges from Yen 4,500 (about $2,250) to Yen 1,200 (about $600) according to the twelve grades into which the amount of the salary is graded. The *hannin* officials sometimes receive almost in exceptional cases Yen 200 (about $100) a month, while ordinarily their monthly salary ranges from Yen 160 (about $80) to Yen 40 (about $20) according to the eleven grades into which the salary's amount is graded.

The amount of military and naval officers' annual salaries is regulated according to their different ranks. The General and Admiral receive Yen 8,000 (about $4,000); the Lieut.-General and Vice-Admiral Yen 6,500 (about $3,250); the Major-General and Rear-Admiral Yen 5,700 (about $2,850); the Colonel and Captain Yen 4,500 (about $2,250); the Lieut.-Colonel and Commander Yen 3,800 (about $1,900); the Major and Lieut.-Commander Yen 3,100 (about $1,550); the army Captain and naval Lieutenant Yen 2,400 (about $1,200); the army Lieutenant and naval Sub-lieutenant Yen 1,800 (about $900); the army Sub-lieutenant and naval Second lieutenant Yen 1,400 (about $700). It must, however, be mentioned that the above figures show the highest amounts allowed to the officers of the indicated ranks, and generally the amounts vary according to the twelve grades, as in the case of the high civilian officials.

In fact, it is to be noted that the salaries of the Japanese Government officials are sadly out of proportion to the prevailing prices of living in Japan. An anecdote, illustrating this, is related. In the days of the Imperial *regime* in Russia immediately after the cessation of the hostilities between Japan and Russia a member of the Duma proposed in the House a reduction of the enormous salaries of the Russian military officers by pointing out the fact that whereas the Japanese Admiral Tôgô was enjoying a salary of only Yen 8,000 the Russian General Kuropatkin was drawing tens of thousands Yen, but in war success does not depend on the amount of the salary, for while the Japanese Admiral won a glorious victory the Russian General suffered a shameful defeat. But at the same time it must be remembered that the Japanese officials of the *shinnin* rank, that is, the Ministers of State and Generals and Admirals enjoy an allowance equal in amount to their salaries from the private purse of the Emperor.

The Elder Statesmen.

Besides, there has existed in Japan a group of the so-called "Elder Statesmen," who were once defined by a foreign critic as being the highest officials of the Japanese Gorverment. But truth to say, they by no means constitute part of the Japanese officialdom, but exist by themselves as an independent body of elder statesmen, first constituted by the late Emperor Meiji in appreciation of the vast help they had rendered to the Emperor in the stupendous work of remodelling the Japanese Empire at the beginning of the Meiji era. The late Princes Itô, Yama-

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gata, Matsukata, Marquis Inouye, and others were among these elder statesmen, and they actually have had a hand in the formation of new Ministries, or have given deliberations upon the momentous problems of the state, so that their weight in the political circles of Japan has been considerable, especially because of the recommendation by the late Emperor of their advice in affairs of great national importance. But nowadays since the demise of the Emperor Meiji and also the death of most of them, the *regime* of the "elder statemen" has become a thing of the past. At present Prince Saionji is an only survivor of this honoured coterie.

Boy Scouts Trained in Boating

Exercice au canotage de petits éclaireurs

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The History of the Japan Red Cross Society

By Baron S. Hirayama, President of the Society

OUR project to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the foundation of the Japan Red Cross Society in 1926 recalls memories of the past. All who were interested in the orgaization of the society have passed away, except five. These five are Viscount N. Matsudaira, Mr. M. Kasahara, one of the Viscount's former retainers, and I, among those who were inside the society, and Viscount Ishiguro and Baron Ozawa among those, who were outside of it, the latter two giving us support as important military officers. These survivors are all over seventy years of age and it will be a happy event if all of them can personally celebrate the commemoration.

Bloody battles were fought in the Civil War in 1877 and many men were wounded. T. M. the Emperor and Empress and Lord Sanjo and Lord Iwakura were much worried about it. Some means or other were desired for giving medical treatment to the wounded. The peers eagerly talked over the Imperial wishes. As a result of this, Count T. Sano and Count K. Ogyu, Senators, consulted and decided to arrange for private treatment of the wounded.

Count Sano had experienced of the Red Cross work in Austria where he went in 1873 as Japanese Minister and Vice-President of the Japanese office of the international exhibition held in that country. This was not the first time that he went abroad. His first visit to Europe was before the Restoration, when he went to Holland to oversee the construction of a Japanese warship for the Saga clan and on business connected with the Paris Fair. The Red Cross work first came to his notice then and he had further experience with it in Vienna. This was the motive for the adoption of the Red Cross system for relieving the wounded in the civil war. A society known as the Hakuai-sha was created in consequence by getting a few peers into the project.

The society had very simple rules of five articles, which prescribed first its object as relieving the wounded in war, secondly its funds as subscribed by the menbers and contributed by the general public, thirdly its relif men as wearing a certain visible medal, fourthly the relieving of the enemy's wounded and fifthly its working under Government laws and regulations and under the direction of the Military and Naval authorities. These rules are firmly established to this-day and are the most important items of the Red Cross constitution.

Having been applied to for permission to establish the society, the Government authorities hesitated to grant it mainly because of its object to relieve the enemy's wounded as well as the Imperial army's, for this was quite a new idea and was too important to be approved at once. Finally, the matter was laid before the General of the expeditionary army, H. I. H. Prince Arisugawa, for consideration. The Prince saw Count Sano at the seat of war and wisely approved his application.

The preliminaries took so much time that when the society was ready for work,

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it was rather too late. Still it despatched a contingent and relieved over 1,400 men, the number of men interested in the relief work being about 200 and the amount of money spent 7,000 yen, according to record. The Red Cross principle was thus first put into practice in Japan.

After the war, the question to either dissolve the society or to maintain it was carefully discussed, and finally, it was decided to establish it permanently. More detailed regulations were laid down and the society had H. I. H. Prince Komatsu for the Honorary President, Count .T Sano for the President and Count K. Ogyu for the Vice-President. Count Sano set to collecting subscriptions with extraordinary zeal. He was not so successful at first but his persisent efforts were rewarded with a gradual increase in the subscribers.

The Hakuaisha could not join the Red Cross League, as the Japanese Government was not yet a member of the Red Cross Convention. The society made a representation to the Government, wishing it to join the Convention. The representation was accded to and the Government joined the Convention in 1886. With this, the Hakuaisha took steps to join the European Red Cross League.

Before that, the change of its name came into question. One proposal was to rename it to the Japan Red Cross Socity. But this was opposed by the conservatives, who would not let the original and historical name. Hakuaisha, go. Finally, the proposal was adopted, as the Red Cross Society was considered as worthy of the the name of one coming on the international stage. Accordingly, the society was renamed as at present in 1887. It applied to join the International Red Cross League and the application was at once granted.

The year 1887 was important for the society, which was renamed in it, and made rules for provisional commissions and branch offices seeking support from the local Governors.

Careful consideration was made before it was decided to seek support from the local Governors, for some people advocated the advisability of locating the branch offices in the military districts, as most fitting to the nature of the work, after the French model, instead of placing them in the administrative districts. It was eventually decided, however, to adopt the latter system, for it was most important for the society to spread its spirit widely in the country, for which the military districts were too few. The local Governors were made the chief commissioners or branch chiefs. The commissions were gradually enlarged into branch offices with the valued help of the local Governors, and in 1896, the commission system was abolished, retaining the branch system as at present.

In 1887, the Ladies' Volunteer Nurse Society was formed by Imperial Princesses and peeresses, with the object of taking the lead in studying nursing and inquiring after the health of the sick and wounded and relieving them in case of emergency as volunteer nurses. The people had misconceived the work of nurses as being mean. This miscoception interfered with the collection of good students of nursing by the Red Cross. The above society was promoted by upper class ladies to set an example of how nursing is necessary. This had a good effect on the work of training nurses.

In 1886, the Japan Red Cross Hospital was founded. Its necessity had been felt

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from a few years previously for training nurses, and it was urged by the need to have a hospital before officially Joining the Red Cross Convention, besides as an outcome of the return of Surgeon-General Hashimoto from a tour of inspection in Europe in 1885. Soon, the hospital proved too small and had to be enlarged. At first, it was erected on a leased lot of Government ground at Iida-machi, Kojimachi-ku, Tokyo, and in 1891, it was removed to the present site, a part of the Imperial Toshima estate, on which it was constructed on a larger scale than before.

Nurses began to be trained in 1890, a few years after building the hospital at Iida-machi. In the meantime to a number of doctors had been engaged, act as teachers to these nurses, as advocated by Surgen-General Hashimoto. Fifteen students were collected in 1890 and 17 in 1891. The number increased more and more as the years passed.

In 1888, Mount Bandai in Fukushima Prefecture crupted. Thousands of people were injured. The rules of the Japan Red Cross Society simply provided for wartime relief and not for relief in disasters. H. I. M. the Emperor was much troubled about the calamity and graciously wished to have a Red Cross contingent despatched to the scene of the cruption. The society's directorate decided in favour of the Imperial wish. for it is the dictate of humanity to relieve the sick and wounded in an accident in ordinary times as well as in war, although the society's rules contained no express provision for it. Accordingly, a contingent was sent to the scene of the disaster. This was the first relief of sufferers from a natural calamity by the society. In 1890, the sailors of a certain Turkish ship with Osmau Pasha on board, which sank off the coast of Kishu, were relieved. In 1891, sufferers from the great earthquake in Aichi and Gifu Prefectures were relieved. Since then, the society has been relieving constantly sufferers from natural disasters, and this relief work was initiated by the gracious wish of the late Empress-Dowager.

In 1888, the society made medals for its members and for merit, which were officially permitted to be worn at public meetings as decorations. This privilege, which has never been granted to any other, has proved of much service in spreading the work of the society and increasing its members. Later, various other medals began to be worn by the people. This was prohibited by Imperial ordinance No. 40 in 1895, which made an exception of the Red Cross medals.

The Japan-China War broke out in 1894, when the society had got a tolerably increased number of members, a number of nurses and the experience of relief of sufferers from natural calamities, and its hospital had developed greatly. During the war, the society made its utmost endeavours in nursing the sick and wounded at the front. In Japan, its nurses worked at the Hiroshima Base Hospital under the control of some lady volunteer nurses, and in Korea and Manchuria, the contingents of men were engaged in succour. The Army desired the society's physicians, 3, if I remember correct, to go aboard each transport carrying the sick and wounded. Great difficulty was experienced in engaging these physicians for the tens of transports, although a sufficient number was got by some means or other. The society thus proved very useful in the war, and it multiplied the number of its members manyfold.

The President Count Sano had the earnest desire to transport the sick and wounded from the front to Japan by the society itself during the war. He made frequent visits to Count Terauchi, Chief of the Traffic Department, with the

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request to lend a steamer to the society to serve as its hospital ship. But the request was not granted which was unavoidable, as troop-ships were very short. This impressed Count Sano with the absolute necessity of having hospital ships for the society. At the end of the war, he proposed building such ships. Viscount Ishiguro and I opposed it, as it considered rather risky for the society to build the ships at the cost of millions of yen in the existing financial condition of it. But the Count would not listen to our opposition. His enthusianism at last moved us to support the proposal. Soon afterwards, an order was placed with an English yard for 2 hospital ships of 3,000 tons, the *Hakuai Maru* and the *Kosai Maru*, through the N.Y.K. These ships were brought out to Japan in 1899.

In 1900, the Boxer trouble occurred in Peking. The foreign ministers and others were besieged by the rioters, and they defended themselves by forming a combined force. The new hospital ship *Hakuai Maru* of the society was sent to Tientsin. She was ready to take the foreign sick and wounded to Japan, if they so desired. At first few foreigners took advantage of the offer, as the Japanese medical art was not yet trusted by them. Later, a French officer visited the ship and inspected her equipment, with which he was satisfied. As a result about 40 wounded Frenchmen were taken by the ship to the Hiroshima base hospital, where they were very kindly attended by Japanese nurses. They were impressed by the progress of the medical art and the ability and kindness of the nurses. In the meantime, a steamer was brought out to Nagasaki by the French Red Cross and a French hospital was opened there to nurse the French wounded. At first the latter wished to be in Hiroshima and declined to go to Nagasaki, but finally they were obliged to leave Hiroshima, parting in tears from their Japanese friends.

One interesting story is told of this. Some years later, in the Japan-Russia War, a contribution of 10 or 20 francs was received by the society from a stranger in a country-place of France, and from his letter, it was noticed that he was one of the French men treated in the Hiroshima hospital. This is proof of how the French were grateful to use

The event afforded a chance of acquainting foreigners with the progress of the Japanese medical art and nursing and also the Japanese Red Cross work.

The changes of time called for bigger hospital ships. and the construction of two 5,000 tons steamers was considered in the place of the existing ones of 3,000 tons. At the same time, the cost was estimated to be enormously large with a considerable rise in commodity prices over the previous years when the existing ones were built, making it rather beyond the financial capacity of the society. Another difficulty was about the designing of the ships, as it happened with the designing of the existing ones when they were modelled on ordinary steamers, with only a little equipment for hospital accomodation, to make them fit for service as merchantmen in ordinary times, for purefy hospital ships could be used only in time of war. It was arranged with the N.Y.K. for them to be in the possession of the latter and to be available for the society whenever they were wanted, their building cost being covered by the steamship company in 20 year instalments, which were to be set aside and new steamers to be constructed with the total.

After careful consideration of the new ship building question, it was decided to give up the idea, and instead the military authorities were approached with a request to pre-arrange for the lending of two 5,000 ton steamers to the society in case of emergency, out of the commandeered ships, for fitting them with hospital equipment and transporting the sick and wounded at its expense, ample provision being made beforehand for the crews, physicians, nurses and material. The request was granted by the Army. This dispensed with the necessity of using the money reserved for the construction of the new steamers, and it was put into the endowment fund.

(To be Concluded)

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Glimpses of Japanese Literature during the Kamakura and Muromachi Periods

By Prof. F. Yamazaki.

I

THE long space of time from the 4th year of the Chishô era (A. D. 1180) in which General Yoritomo Minamoto instituted the first Shogunate Government at Kamakura and became deputy master of the Empire to the 5th year of the Keichô era (A. D. 1600) when Iyeyasu Tokugawa established his own Shogunate Government, a period of 420 years, is called the "kinko" (literally, latest ancient), that is, the early modern age, in Japanese history.

This period in political divisions, falls into five periods, namely, the Kamakura age, Two Dynasties age, Muromachi age, Civil War age, and Oda-Toyotomi age. But certainly a literature in constant ebb and flow cannot be fixed so precisely in regard to the periods of its development as any period of political events. Indeed generally speaking, any literary movement or tendency undergoes several developments in the same period of political events, and consequently necessitates a subdivision of that particular period.

Even, for instance, during the "early modern age" the literature of the Kamakura age and that of the Muromachi age aro so closely connected with each other that the two periods, in literary history, cannot conveniently be set apart.

Consequently, the Two Dynasties age intervening between the two periods is not necessary to be treated separately in literary history. I therefore propose to treat of the literature during those three political periods under the general designation of the Kamakura literature.

Again I may say that the literature of the Kamakura-Muromachi period ranges from A. D. 1180 through all those three periods of the fall of the Ashikaga Shogunate family, the Civil War age, the Oda-Toyotomi age to A. D. 1600, the first year of the establishment of the Tokugawa Shogunate Government. In this period the aristocratic government was replaced by the military government, the old literature declined and a new literature sprang up, while the old religious arts perished and the new religious arts took their place. But all these changes did not take place in a quiet, regular way, but amidst confusion and disorder

In the early days of this period the feuds between the two military clans of the Minamoto and the Taira lasted for a long time, and the friction among the members of the Kamakura Shogunate Government, followed by the struggles between the Ashikaga Shogunate family and the military chiefs, and the private feuds among the feudal lords under the Ashikaga Shogun constantly distracted the country.

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And so the nobles and the priests who had had predominant were power now reduced to a position of impotency and were leading uneasy, helpless lives under the pressure of constant warfare. They therefore had a profounder feeling of sadness at the change of the times, as inheritors of the sentiments, customs, and faiths that had prevailed at the end of the Heian period in their prosperous days. Though placed in high position, yet lacking the sufficient means to uplift their material life higher than that of the *samurai* class, they were now only disposed to look askance at the reversal of the order of the social classes and were full of resentment against the newly risen class of *samurai*.

It is true that the swordsmen thus placed in power and having obtained recognition of their social status could enjoy a materially full life. But withal they lacked the culture sufficient to appreciate urban civilization even when they came into contact with it, having been long accustomed to the simple, rude life in the country. They therefore yearned after a new art that would suit their own taste which they at last found in the "Nô" plays.

Indeed, the *samurai* could not accustom themselves at once to the graceful, mincing manners of the nobles and had a liking for the rigid, simple style of living, having been used to rough, warlike exercises with weapons. Besides, they could not put their faith in the old religion and only found unity with the tenor of their life in the *Zen* cult, which had sprung up as a new religion with the ascetic, simple aspect of its doctrine and ceremony. Thus the wedding of the two elements, that is, the warrior's simple life and the equally simple mode of ritual of the *Zen* cult produced the peculiarly Oriental ideal of simplicity and unostentation.

The remarkable feature of this period was the intellectual awakening of the Japanese nation. In the preceding Heian age Confucianism had been introduced into this country as the representative system of Chinese thought and Buddhism, the typical system of Indian philosophy, flourished; but it was still too early for them to be assimilated by the nation. For the Japanese had then already too strongly formed their own national traits to receive external influence so easily.

The contemporaries of the Heian period lived in the freedom of sentiment. They frolicked in the unfettered indulgence of love sentiment, and thus the nobles, endowed with physical beauty, spent their time in making love conquests, by their charm of person and countenance, and made no scruples in that game.

The poet Narihira Ariwara was the typical Don Juan of the time. Another instance is found in the hero of the *Genji Monogatari* (Romance of Genji), the masterpiece of Murasaki Shikibu, the famous Court lady. The hero of this novel, Genji-no-Kimi made love to every woman after his mind, and was courted in turn by every woman that came in his way. And what is remarkable is the authoress's own mental attitude toward the hero which discovers itself though unconsciously in the seeming admiration she felt for the character of her hero.

Genji-no-Kimi, born a son of the Emperor, his mother being a Court lady favoured by the Emperor, and himself gifted with uncommon charm of countenance, and full of affectionate sentiment, was adored with such passion by every woman that he never left the sting of hatred against him in her heart even when he deserted her. Indeed, the hero is depicted apparently as the type of the ideal man of that time. But nevertheless it must be mentioned that in the midst of giddy romantic scenes, he took no intellectual reflection nor felt any twinge of conscience. He was indeed a creature compounded of sentiment alone. And in fact such a dissolute character truly reflected the moral atmosphere of the time.

But on the other hand, the following age, that is, the Kamakura-Muromachi period, was remarkable for the intense activity of intellect, which was no doubt the result of the culture which was beginning to be accomplished by Confucianism and Buddhism in the meanwhile. There the germ of a moral idea was formed. Moreover, this period was marked by

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civil wars between the feudal clans, so that the people could not enjoy such undisturbed peace as in the Heian period and from the necessity of military training arose the habits of ascetism and also ideas as to personal obligation, fidelity, etc., Instances abound in which a lover sacrificed his natural feelings to his allegiance to his lord, or a loving husband relinquished his ties with his wife and children to devote himself to the cause of his master.

At the same time, the idea of praising love to the highest pitch began to be scouted as demeaning a man's character. And novels began to appear in which the conflict between the natural ties or affections and the pledge of allegiance to one's master or other ties distant from one's own heart were treated.

In this atmosphere what became afterward known as "Bushido" (Way of the Samurai) must have taken its rise. All these ideas and tendencies continued to exist on through the Tokugawa period and therefore dramas, novels, and *joruri* (puppet-plays with musical accompaniment of the *samisen*, the Japanese guitar, the story being told by the teller in a loud cleverly intoned voice), etc., produced in that age exaggerated or eulogized this new feature of Japanese morality. With the exaltation of these moral ideas, books of didactic intent began to appear, as a natural consequence. Indeed, it can be affirmed that during the Heian period there had existed absolutely no books expressly written for that purpose. But on the contrary, during the period under review no books of any literary worth published were without some inkling of didactic purpose.

Even Kenkô Yoshida's *Tsure-zure-gusa* (Stray Thoughts of a Priest) which is a series of essays written at odd intervals on things human and Nature, chiefly concerning his taste and inclination, has evidently a didactic motive. To give an instance, there is a story in the book of the incautious priest, who danced at a feast with the tripod kettle pulled over his eyes, to the delight of the company, and afterward trying to take off the kettle he found that it stuck too fast round his head, and he at last pulled it off by main force, but not before his ears and nose were bruised and torn off. The author therefrom deduces a moral that any diversion, if carried to an extreme, does more harm than good.

When such moral teaching is more expressly and systematically intended we have the *Jikkinsho* (Selections from Lessons in Ten Virtues). This book consists of anecdotes told for amusement relating to the practice of ten virtues which the author thought fit to be inculcated as essential to the conduct of man. In this book, written apparently for mere amusement, we can plainly see the didactic intent of the author underlying it.

The main cause of the appearance of such didactic books as I have above pointed out, was the need of moral discipline felt as a consequence of military training in this age of warfare. But at the same time, it must be confessed that in this age learning was, as in the Middle Ages of Europe, relegated to the monasteries or left in the hands of the leisurely nobles, while the general mass of people were left in ignorance. Such being the case, the writers were obliged to tone down their writings to the understanding of the general public. And hence naturally a didacticc vein pervades all their writings, and so the books written in this age had their didactic character.

Indeed, this didactic method of writing was followed by the authors of the next, the Tokugawa age. In this period such writers as Jippensha Ikku, Shikitei Samba, etc., were in some respects Tobias Smolletts, whose novels were full of absurd characters and incidents, depicting the gross manners and vulgar customs of the time. These novels indeed at first sight seem to have been written for mere diversion, but on looking closer we find that those authors from time to time come forward from behind the scenes and deliver lectures on morality or exhort their readers to better behaviour or warn them against wrong-doing. Such an attitude of the authors was a remnant of the technique of those of the preceding age.

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Commercial Intelligence

Foreign Trade During February.—It is officially reported that during February, the foreign trade of Japan amounted to 164,535,000 yen for exports and 284,819,000 yen for imports making the total of 449,354,000 yen and showing the balance of 120,284,000 yen against us. The exports since January were 311,708,000 yen and the imports 512,557,000 yen, the total coming to 824,265,000 yen and the balance being 200,849,000 yen against us. As compared with the same period, 1924, the exports lost 95,617,000 yen and the imports 6,583,000 yen.

Ford Works.—The Ford firm, of America is establishing its works in Yokohama under the name of the Japan Ford Automobile Co. Ltd.

A General Meeting of the Yokohama Specie Bank.—A regular general meeting of shareholders of the Yokohama Specie Bank was held on March 10th, when a 12 per cent. dividend was declared, and the President. Mr. Kodama, spoke substantially as follows:—

During the first half of the term under review or during the export period, the exchange rate between Japan and America was stationary at $41 odd, but entering upon the import trade in October, the rate fell off to $39 and then to $38.50. For a time, it was hard even to maintain the latter rate. Towards the beginning of November, the rate strengthened a little, but for the subsequent period, it was unchanged. The rate between Japan and England stood at 1s. 11d. at the beginning of the term, but soon it took a downward course under an effect received from the above tendency of the Japanese-American cross rate, in addition to an improvement of the £. In August, it broke down the mark of 1s. 11d. In September, it fell off to 1s. 9d odd, in October to 1s. 8d odd. and in November to 1s. 7½d. The price of silver began at 34 1/4d. and in July and August, it moved between 33 5/8d. and 34 3/4d. In September, the rate improved with an increased Indian demand, in addition to buying made by Europe of coinage. On October 6th, it reached the peak with 36 1/16d. But it declined to 34 3/4d towards the end of October, as there was so active Chinese selling made with the suspension of buying by Europe that the Indian demand, which kept up strong, was no longer so powerful to as rule the market. In October, the rate went down further to 33d. odd. Its downward tendency was helped by an improvement of the English-American cross rate, and it declined at last to 31 3/16d. towards the close of the term. In the meantime, the exchange rate on Shanghai began at 57 3/4 taels, and fell off steadily, contrary to the advance of silver. On October 10th, it sttood at 46 1/2 taels. Later, the decline of silver started its movement toward firmness and at last reached 49 odd taels.

Commodity Prices in Tokyo.—The Bank of Japan's monthly returns of prices of commodities in Tokyo show 8 commodities advancing, 34 commodities declining and 14 commodities unchanged during February. The average price during the month was 1.72 per cent. under that in January. The commodities advancing, declining and unchanged in the month are mentioned below:—

Commodities Advancing.—Rice, Dried Bonoto, Raw Silk, Hemp, Flannels, Japanese Paper, Foreign Paper and Wax Vegetable.

Commodities Declining.—Rye, Wheat, Soja Beans, Small Beans, Wheat Flour, Bran, Fish Manure, Oil Cake, Sugar, Soy, Eggs, Vegetable Oils, Habutaye, Silk Handkerchiefs, Kai Silk, Silk for Lining, Floss Silk, Cotton Yarns, Imitation Canteens, Shirtings, Ginned Cotton, Muslins, Italian Cloths, Indigo, Timber, Iron, Iron Nails, Copper, Stone, Matting, Matches, Coal, Charcoal and Firewood.

Commodities Unchanged.—Barley, Teas, Salt, *Miso*, Sake, Tobacco, Cigaret-

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tes, Brick, Tiles, Cement, Plate Glass, Ladquer, Leather and Kerosene Oil.

Means to Improve Trade.—The Japan Economic Federation has memorialized the Government for improving foreign trade, proposing the following means:—

1. To classify export goods into first and second grades in conditioning them, admitting both as exportable goods, there being foreign markets, for which either the first grades or the second grades are suitable.

2. The so-called coarse and carelessly made goods contain not only bad or inferior goods, but those not uniform in quality. It is most urgently necessary to uniformize quality, and it is desired that in conditioning staple export goods, consideration should be given to this fact and the passed goods should bear the official mark of classification, besides the manufacturer's mark. At the same time, it is desired that the Central Government should more strictly control the conitioning of export goods to be done under a uniform system.

3. The members of the export asscia-tion to be granted low interest long term loans for trading according to the conditions at foreign destinations.

4. Middle and low class exporters being generally short of funds, it is desired that some suitable means should be adopted by the Government for this so as to compensate them or to re-discount export drafts at a low rate by the Bank of Japan.

5. The free or drawback system of raw materials for export goods to be enlarged and the Customs' examination of the export goods under that system to be simplified as far as possible.

6. It is desired that the railway charges on all the export goods from the place of production to the export port be rebated.

Iron from Dregs of Sulphuric Acid.—The manufacture of iron from the dregs left after making sulphuric acid is projected on a large scale by the Government Yawata Iron Works, based on their experience with a small amount of the dregs from their sulpuric acid factory. The dregs thrown away as useless in Japan amount to about 200,000 tons a year, which will be collected and made into iron in a smelting furnace.

A Oil Company.—The Hokushin-kai, a syndicate of certain six big oil mining companies in Japan, projects organizing an oil company with a capital of 10,-000,000 yen, to which its business of oil mining in North Saghalien will be transferred, with a view to developing oil wells there on a greater scale then before as a result of the reeovery of diplomatic relations between Japan and Russia.

A Subsidyto the Dye Stuff Industry.—The Government Bill for Amending the Law of Subsidy to the Dye Stuff Industry has passed both houses of the Diet. The amended law provides for the granting of a subsidy to general dye stuff manufacturers as recognized by the Government and not simply to the Japan Dye Stuff Co. as hitherto.

Shipments of Raw Silk.—During March, 19,090 bales of raw silk were shipped from Yokohama to America, being 5,381 bales over the same month, 1924.

Business of the N. Y. K.—During the half yearly term ending March 31st, the business of the N. Y. K. was not quite successful, its accounts showing a diminution from those in the preceding term. Its dividend will, however, be maintainud at the last rate, or 10 per cent. by drawing on the dividend equalization fund, which stands at present at 9,500,000 yen.

General Meeting of the T. K. K.—A general meeting of the T. K. K. was held on March 30th, when the dividend was passed up, as its losses for the term amounted to 2,531,670 yen, which is added to the loss of 1,245,213 yen brought over from the preceding term, the total coming to 3,776,883 yen.

The Yamashita Kisen Kaisha.—It is understood that the Yamashita Kisen

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Kaisha has decided to re-adjust its affaire and to steer its business along new lines of policy. A wholesale reduction of its staff is expected in consequence.

Prospects of the Financial World.—Mr. M. Naruse, the President of the 15th Bank, states that trade is languid with a great diminution in the general purchasing power due to the very serious effect received from the earthquake and Government reforms of financial and administrative affairs. It is even apprehended that trade will be more depressed hereafter. This is more and more restricting sales of manufactured goods and lowering their prices. On the other hand, it is difficult to reduce the cost of production in proportion. Further tradal dullness is feared, therefore, to ill affect industry. The monetary demand is naturally very slack with such flat tradal and industrial conditions, augmenting the banks' sulplus funds and producing negatively easiness of money. The banks' loans are not easily recoverable, while their deposits are not increasing largely. Their loaning capacity is, therefore, quite limited.

All these things admit of no optimistic view to be taken of the future prospects of the financial situation. One fortunate things is, however, that the solution of the German reparation question in 1924 has tended to European and American economic revival, in consequence of which our important export goods are in better demand abroad than before. If this American economic improvement should soon subside and her demand for Japanese raw silk decrease, the Japanese economic world will again be filled with pessimistis feeling, depressing possibly trade and industry here more than at present. Our financial situation cannot be viewed as remarkably improved, and in order to get through the present economic crisis, both the Government and people must work under a more foundamental policy for meeting it.

While it is most imperative to tense the national spirit the Government must not be remiss in removing the various obstacles lying before industrial development. It is an undeniable fact that every European country has been more inclined towards the protection of her industry since the war than before, and even America adheres to a protective tradal policy. Japan has been little attentive to the protection of her industry, one example of which is that old foreign steamers are unrestrictedly allowed to be imported, irrespective of the decline of the domestic shipbuilding industry. Mechanical engineering and iron manufacturing can be expected to make development by means of a protective tariff. When industry develops, the insecurity in the financial world will disappear of itself.

Foreign Loan.—The Ujigawa Denki K. K. has succeeded in negotiating for a foreign loan of $14,000,000 with an American syndicate, the interest being 7 per cent., the issue price $91 and the redemption period 20 years. The loan is secured by a factory foundation intrusted to the Industrial Bank of Japan.

Number of Banks.—At the end of March 1925, the number of banks in Japan was 1,761, including 1,622 ordinary banks and 139 savings banks.

Tied Up Steamers.—In the middle of March, the tied up steamers in the principal ports of Japan numbered 237 with the aggregate gross tonnage of 58,640 tons, showing a decrease of 7 in number and 5,207 tons in aggregate gross tonnage from the middle decade of February.

Timber Importation.—During February, the importation of pine fir amounted to 139,947 c.m., bringing the total since January up to 296,862 c. m. Of the figure for February, 38 c. m. came from Kwantung Province, 5,234 c. m. from Asiatic-Russia, 130,482 c. m. from North America and 4,193 c. m. from Canada.

How to Regulate Commodity Prices.—In pursuance of a declaration for a proper commodity price regulation policy in the Diet by Finance Minister Hamaguchi, necessary investigations are being made officially with a view to find-

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ing suitable methods for putting it into practice, the chief items of investigation being the contraction of currency, the spreading of the idea to economize consumption, the improvement of the selling system of commodities, the unification and improvement of the machinery of production, the lowering of the import duties on daily decessaries, the lowering of railway and steamship rates on daily necessaries and the improvement of their landing and other harbour arrangements, the organization of a national savings association and the consumption of home products. Some of the above items may not be feasible at once. Anyhow, the official intention is said to be to adopt a more thorough method of commodity regulation than the lukewarme one taken some years ago by Finance Minister Ichiki. The question is being treated as the most important economic problem for this fiscal year among the financial authorities.

Demand and Supply of Wood Pulp.—Wood pulp began to be made in Japan about 1913 and has been steadily increasing in production since then as may be seen from the following figures:—

Year.	Production. Tons.	Year.	Production. Tons.
1913	76,081	1920	268,261
1914	89,874	1921	250,027
1915	112,075	1922	301,425
1916	134,978	1923	338,106
1917	169,039	1924	357,084
1918	198,596	1625	420,883
1919	235,227		

In the meantime, the importation of the goods has changed as follows:—

Year.	Importation. Tons	Year.	Importation. Tons
1912	45,415	1919	40,581
1913	47,477	1920	46,808
1914	45,342	1921	38,765
1915	153,686	1922	66,383
1916	57,720	1923	35,562
1917	14,334	1924	60,014
1918	28,769		

Foreign Trade for January-March.—The following table gives the value of the foreign trade of Japan in January-March for a number of years past:—

(In Thousands of Yen)

Year.	Exports.	Imports.	Excess of Im. over Ex.
1913	137,817	190,286	52,469
1919	377,185	479,136	101,951
1920	544,204	804,434	260,230
1921	245,860	361,451	115,591
1922	303,558	583,692	280,134
1923	339,591	505,457	165,866
1924	336,557	819,699	483,142
1925	463,224	829,489	366,265

Below is given the value of the staple exports and imports for January-March of 1923, 1924 and 1925:—

(In Thousands of Yen)

Goods.	1925.	1924.	1923.
Staple Exports:			
Hulled and Unhulled Rice .	1,146	92	119
Peas and Beans	3,735	2,074	2,263
Marine Products	6,170	5,144	4,375
Teas	479	407	658
Refined Sugar.	7,579	6,472	4,702
Tinned and Bottled Food	2,173	1,021	805
Waste and Floss Silk . .	7,573	5,235	3,609
Coal	7,652	4,927	4,865
Raw Silk . . .	159,724	112,816	123,926
Cotton Yarns .	23,030	18,390	22,513
Braids	2,089	1,550	2,413
Matches . . .	2,210	1,696	3,036
Silk Fabrics. .	22,550	24,391	21,396
Cotton Fabrics	95,895	66,188	55,674
Hosiery Goods	6,527	3,826	5,103
Paper	3,980	3,748	3,578
Cement . . .	987	418	376
Earthe and Porcelain Wares	6,595	5,327	5,179
Glass and Glass Manufactures	4,577	2,865	2,639
Iron Wares .	3,784	3,064	2,645
Machinery . .	2,366	2,275	2,087

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Toys	2,337	1,632	1,803
Staple Imports:			
Hulled and Unhulled Rice .	13,737	14,289	2,474
Wheat	25,588	44,503	6,858
Peas and Beans	22,556	25,960	15,876
Sugar.	14,028	14,196	10,609
Crude Rubber	3,790	6,703	3,007
Raw Cotton .	335,372	224,013	165,317
Flax and Hemp	7,216	6,599	4,118
Wool	48,900	29,085	26,267
Sulphate of Ammonia	8,857	9,341	2,647
Oil Cake . . .	38,791	37,897	33,554
Coal	6,717	7,999	5,961
Timber . . .	20,205	47,563	13,450
Bran	4,203	3,615	2,633
Coal Tar Dyes	2,763	2,016	1,999
Woollen Yarns	14,724	21,012	12,724
Pulp	3,432	3,005	1,004
Iron	41,105	84,682	23,440
Volatile Oil .	5,166	5,348	2,324
Kerosene Oil .	5,297	3,629	2,380
Cotton Fabrics .	5,988	3,011	1,955
Woollen Fabrics	32,330	20,518	14,575
Paper	5,045	6,983	2,803
Watches and Parts Thereof	1,770	2,583	1,566
Machinery . .	23,501	33,277	30,891

Fertilizers Imported in February. — During February, fertilizers and their materials were imported to the quantity of 198,166 tons valued at 18,926,058 yen, an increase of 6,589 tons in quantity and 832,902 yen in value over the preceding month. Following are the details:—

Goods	Quantity. Tons	Value. Yen
Saltpetre	415	68,597
Potassium Sulphide.	4,242	477,492
Sulphate of Ammonia	14,881	2,534,895
Phosphorites . . .	14,208	287,243
Bones	2,157	254,979
Bone Meals	5,226	566,845
Bean Cake	140,874	12,649,830
Cottonseed Cake .	5,000	488,187
Rapeseed Cake . .	6,713	627,191
Other Oil Cake. .	2,298	222,609
Fish Guano	1,652	245,706
Other	?	102,484

General Tariff Revision. — The Government had no time to submit its intended bill for a general revision of the import tariff to the last session of the Diet. It is understood that it is officially desired to revise the tariff generally with the approval of the Diet at its next session for which the Tariff Revision Preparation Committee will meet shortly. The existing rates having been fixed on the basis of the prices of 17 or 18 years ago, the revised tariff will be raised on an average. Individually, however, some goods, on which a protective duty is now imposed, will be subject to a lower duty, as the industries have developed so as to need no more protection.

The French Economic Mission.— A luncheon was given on the 6th for the French Economic Mission now visiting this country, by the Tokyo Chamber of Commerce. After the luncheon, Mr. Fujiyama, President of the Chamber of Commerce spoke in part as follows:—

M. Ader has expressed the wish to hear the Japanese demands frankly at this meeting. First of all, I demand a revision in French-Indo-China tariff as the most important way of improving Franco-Japanese friendship. In the second place, Franco-Japanese trade mest be improved from the present intermediate trade to direct trade, for which an establishment like a commercial museum is desired in each country. Our third wish is to develop the resources of French-Indo-China with Japanese capital.

To this, M. Ader, the leader of the mission, replied by a speech, which may be summarized as follows:—

This luncheon, cordially given to-day to our mission by this Chamber of Commerce, is not without significance. I trust that your guidance, your efforts, and your encouragement in the performance of our mi sion, will have the result of determing a definite economic policy between the two countries. French traders and manufactures have hitherto hesitated to accept your solicitation of business and some of them have even taken an attitude of opposition to it, which is simply be-

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cause of their insufficient knowledge of the actual state of things here. It will not be the case here-after. This mission was formed through my efforts, and its activities will bear fruit in future. We earnestly desire to exchange views with you heartily and without reserve.

Proposed Adjustment of the North American Lines.--The Marine Affairs Investigation Soecity met on the 8th and considered the question of adjusting the present North American steamship lines as advocated by Dr. Terashima of the N. Y.K., and adopted Dr. Terashima's plan with some amendments. The plan will be submitted to a general meeting of the society to be held shortly and will be laid before the authorities concerned then. It is proposed in the plan to combine the present Seattle and Puget Sound lines into one, retaining the present San Francisco line, and to organize a company with a capital of 75,000,000 yen, taking over the above lines together with the liners and rights of navigation, the value of which will form the capital, floating capital being obtained by means of debentures or another loan.

Commodity Prices during March.—During March, the index number of staple commodities in Tokyo worked out at 270.32 as against 277.86 for February, showing a fall of 2.71 per cent. Of the 56 commodities, 6 advanced, 41 declined and 9 were unchanged. Those advancing were rice, dried bonito, stones, foreign paper, leather and charcoal, those declining barley, rye, wheat, soja beans, small beans, wheat flour, bran, fish manure, oil cake, sugar, soy, *sake*, eggs, edible oils, raw silk, habutaye, silk handkerchiefs, Kai silk, silk for lining, floss silk, cotton yarns, imitation Canteen, shirtings, ginned cotton, hemp, flannels, muslins, Italian cloth, indigo, timber, iron, nails, copper, cement, matting, window glass, wax vegetable, matches, coal, firewood and lacquer, and those unchanged teas, salt, *miso*, cut tobacco, cigarette, bricks, tiles, Japanese paper and kerasene oil.

Taking the index number of these staple commodities in October, 1900 as 100, it compares with the yearly averages and March index number in the past 13 years as follows:

Year.	Yearly Average.	For March.
1913	132.32	132.59
1914	126.31	128.14
1915	127.76	125.32
1016	154.57	154.92
1917	194.50	167.35
1918	254.77	238.73
1919	311.98	267.51
1920	343.19	425.25
1921	265.09	252.98
1922	259.00	265.50
1923	263.48	259.00
1924	273.20	272.09
1925 (Jan-Mar.)	276.93	270.32

Specie Held.—The specie held here and abroad on March 31st is reported by the Finance Office as 1,467,000,000 yen, being 22,000,000 yen less than at the end of January. This decreass was on account of the Government holdings abroad. The total held, with the holders and places of deposit were as follow:—

(In Thousands of Yen)

Specie Held.	On March 31st.	Comp. with End of Jan.
By the Government	288,000	23,000 Dec.
,, ,, Bank of Japan	1,049,000	1,000 Inc.
Sepcie Held.	**On March 31st.**	**Comp. with End of Jan.**
In Japan	1,175,000	0
,, Foreign Lands	292,000	22,000 Dec

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Silhouettes in the Japanese Literary World

SINCE the death of Soseki Natsume, it is almost impossible today to point out a novelist in this country gifted with clear intellect, profound knowledge and powerful originality.

Kafû Nagai is no longer regarded as a man of the day. When he returned from France, he lamented the decay of Yedo ideas. Since he published "Futari-Azuma" ("Two Wives") in the "Myojo," only a few stray notes have appeared from him.

The person who inherits Kafû's place is Mantaro Kubota. Mantaro was born in Asakusa, Tokyo, in 1889, the son of a dealer in pouches, and graduated from Keio University. Nagai was teaching there and Mantaro was one of his pupils, which together with the fact that he is a true Tokyo man, made him a fervent admirer of Yedo taste. "Sabishi kereba" ("As I am Lonely") which he recently published in the "Chuo Koron," trifling short story as it is—it is said that he is intending to write a sequel—expresses forcibly the feeling of a man who longs for the atmophere of Yedo in inconsolable sorrow and finds himself incapable of resisting the current of thought rushing in torrents. He is no prolific author; it is said that he polishes and repolishes what he writes. He is recognised as an original writer representing a definite trend in the Japanese literary field.

Worth-while popular contemporary novelists are Kan Kikuchi, Masao Kume and Ryunosuke Akutagawa. Although it seems at first glance that these three have something in common between them, still each has something which makes his works different.

Kan Kikuchi was born in Takamatsu, Shikoku, in 1889. After graduating from the First High School he entered the Kyoto Imperial University where he graduated from the English Literature Course. Masao Kume was born in Uyeda in Shinano Province in 1891. He is a graduate of the English Literature Course of the Tokyo Imperial University.

Ryunosuke Akutagawa who is also a graduate of the English Literature Course of the Tokyo Imperial University was born in Kyobashi, Tokyo, in 1892. He is on the editorial staff of the "Osaka Mainichi."

Kan Kikuchi laboured under difficulties while at school. He has some sharp angles in his character; he is straightforward and iron-willed. These characteristics are expressed in his productions. Much material for his works was taken from his own college life. They are not sedate and peaceful. A kleptomaniac student; one who was compelled to leave school on account of not being admitted into society for the reason of the principles he maintained; the penetration of human weaknesses; hateful social effects: these are depicted in his stories.

Masao Kume is said to be a man of good disposition. As one of the disciples of Soseki Natsume he studied under him, and fell in love with his daughter. He failed to win her owing to his nature, being too weak to attract feminine affection, it is told. His characteristics are reflected in the observations he makes which are sympathetic and full of charm. No wonder that he is most popular among women readers.

Kan and Masao write many popular novels for women's magazines and seldom write weighty works.

As for Kan Kikuchi, his novel, the "Lady of Pearls" (Shinju Fujin) appearing serially in the "Tokyo Nichi Nichi" and the "Osaka Mainichi" is so popular that it is rumoured that he was additionally remunerated by the newspaper besides the amount for which he contracted to write.

Masao Kume also has attracted readers by his serial works, "Hotaru-gusa" ("Hare's Ears") and "Fushicho"

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("The Immortal Bird") in the "Jiji Shimpo." His serial production, "Hasen" ("The Shipwreck") in the "Shufu-no-Tomo," a women's magazine, is also popular. The subject of this novel is his own lost love.

Ryunosuke Akutagawa is different from the two others. He is more sensitive and delicate in observation. He never takes his own life for material for his works. He places himself in the position of a third person.

As a representative work of Kan Kikuchi the Japan Magazine has already published "Onshu no Kanata ni" ("Beyond Gratitude and Animosity") and of Ryunosuke Akutagawa, "Aru Hi no Oishi Kuranosuke" ("Oishi Kuranosuke on a Certain Day").

Of late the phenomena of the class struggle are remarkable in Japan. In consequence proletarian literature has begun to gain ground. It was for some time actively discussed in the Japanese literary world whether proletarian literature means literature for the propaganda of the principle of proletarianism or that by writers belonging to that class, because some of those who are said to belong to the proletarian class are entirely bourgeois in their productions and taste and because it is a question in regard to the value of literary work if there is any impropriety in the motive when literature is taken advantage of as a means of reconstructing society.

At any rate it is a fact that in Japan there are some who are regarded as belonging to the proletarian class representing a section of the literary circle.

As one of them we can mention Karoku Miyachi. He was born in the city of Saga in Kyushu in 1884. He once pursued a course of study in Waseda University, but left without completing the whole course on account of having to earn his livelihood and went to Kure, where he worked in the Naval Arsenal for several years. When a labour question arose there he took the lead in the agitation, on account of which he was put in the authorities' black list and was forced to come to Tokyo where he led a Bohemian life for some time. He was still watched by the police while he sustained life by bodily labour and writing novels. Among his works are "Baien no Nioi" ("The Smell of Soot"). "Aru Shokko no Shuki" ("A Workman's Memoir") and "Horo-sha Tomizo" ("Tomizo, a Wanderer"). These titles show that his speciality lies in collecting material for his novels from his own life.

Shûkô Chikamatsu leads a comparatively long life in the literary world, and is still taking active part in contemporary literature. His productions are of a peculiar colour, unrivalled. In the Japanese literary field his works are generally called "Literature of Blind Love," and are regarded as a special type.

"Wakareta Tsuma ni Okuru Tegami" ("Letrers to a Divorced Wife"), "Giwaku" ("Suspicion"), "Kurokami" ("Black Hair") and "Himitsu" ("A Secret") all reflect this idea and inclination.

The hero of those novels is a man whose wife flees with her paramour while he is absent; or struggles to conceal signs of her unfaithlessness; the husband tries by all means to get proof of her guilt and discloses it; then he immediately divorces her; but still he writes often to the divorced wife for whom he has a lingering affection.

The deeply rooted attachment with which he pines for the abandoned wife, is well expressed in his productions, which attracts readers' curiosity. This character of a weak husband is handled by him in various ways and observed from different directions.

Shûkô Chikamastu was born in Okayama Prefecture in 1876. He is a graduate of the literature course of Waseda University. He led a bachelor's life for many years, but is now married to a wife whom he loves with all his soul. They have one child. Since his marriage his work has undergone alteration. He has begun to take an interest in writing political fiction.

Ton Satomi is the only writer depicting the *demi monde* the Japanese literary

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world of today possesses. Not a few writers selecting the background of their works in the *demi monde*, but most of their work is vulgar with little artistic flavour.

Satomi's works, on the contrary, are free from such weakness. His brilliant and elegant style makes him fittest in the contemporary literary circle to depict the traditional manners and customs in the Japanese *demi monde* refined since the days of Yedo! In his latest work, "Kotoshi-dake" ("A Bamboo of This Year") the life and circumstances of the families of two men who are strongly attached to geisha are described with a delicate and elaborate pen.

He was born in Yokohama in 1888. He is a younger brother of the late Takeo Arishima, a very noted novelist, and of Ikuma Arishima, also a famous author. After having graduated from the High School Course of the Peers' School, he entered English Literature Course of the Tokyo Imperial University, which he left without completing it.

Shomu Nobori is nowadays popular as one who faithfully introduces Russian literature into Japan, with profound knowledge of it. He was long buried in oblivion, as the Japanese literary circle took little heed of Russian literature. Now he has become recognised as a foremost spokesman for Russian literature in Japan. Shomu was born in Oshima, Satsuma Province, in 1878. He is a graduate of the Nikolai Orthodox School of the Russian Cathedral in Tokyo and is well versed in Russian. At present he teaches Russian language and literature at the Military Staff College, Waseda University and the Nikolai Orthodox School.

He is not an original writer, but is recognised as the only author familiar with Russian literature now that Shimei Futabatei, the foremost Russian scholar is no more. Most of the masterpieces of Gorki, Tolstoi, Andrieff, Turgenieff, etc. have been given to Japan by him. Recently he published five volumes of the Russian Proletarian Literature Series.

As a conspicuous figure in present Japanese literature Koji Uno should be mentioned. He was born in the city of Hakata, Fukuoka Prefecture, in 1891 and brought up in Osaka. Although he studied for some time at the Literature College in Waseda University, he left before finishing the course of study. Until he made his debut on the Japanese literary stage he led for many years a Bohemian life of poverty. His name became widely known by the publication of "Kura no Uchi" ("In the Warehouse") and since then he has put forth many valuable works.

The special feature of his productions is his talkativeness on topics of human life. He goes into interminable details. He writes with interest and exaggeration and digressions. In such lengthy style can be found agony and sorrow which can not be easily described. He is not the light-hearted and optimistic person he looks. It is a well known fact that he always travels to Shimo-Suwa in Shinano Province in order to gather materials for his works.

Saisei Muroo is one of the remarkable novelists in Japan today. He was born in the city of Kanazawa in 1889. As his father was a Buddhist priest he studied under him, and attended no regular school. In his boyhood he composed many odes which he contributed to juvenile magazines, and became known as a promising poet early in life. When he grew up, he became a novelist. The subject of his fiction is invariably the environment of a temple in North Japan surrounded with a gloomy atmosphere. Kanazawa, his native place, is always adopted by him as the scene of his work.

His style is as elegant as of a poem with minute descriptions, a yearning for Nature enveloped in a sort of mysterious atmosphere.

Katai Tayama, Hakucho Masamune, Shoken Kamitsukasa, veterans, and Junichiro Tanizaki, Saneatsu Mushakoji and Naoya Shiga are foremost writers. These novelists are not writing new works for the time being. Even if they publish works they will hardly attract the interest of readers in general, because they are rather out of date.

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As for rising writers, we can mention Zenzo Kasai, Kichiji Nakatogawa, Shutaro Nanbu, Masajiro Kojima, Mosaku Sasaki, Kamenosuke Mizumori, etc. It is noteworthy that most of them are adherents of proletarian literature. It may be that the great writers who will take the lead in Japanese literature will be found among them.

Seijiro Shimada became widely known before he was twenty-five by writing a long work of fiction entitled "Chijo" ("On Earth,") which astounded the Japanese literary world. He has gone insane and is leading a lonesome life in a small gloomy room in an asylum. It is said that his madness is the result of having gained fame too early and he became arrogant towards his friends who consequently ceased to concern themselves with him. After all he proved that there is a close connection between genius and madness.

Works by Kan Kikuchi have of late begun to be introduced abroad. "Onshu no Kanata ni" ("Beyond Gratitude and Animosity") which was translated into English and published in the Japan Magazine was re-translated into Italian, while "Rangaku Kotohajime" ("The Beginning of the Study of Dutch") was translated into Dutch and enjoyed a high reputation. "Aru Katakiuchi no Hanashi" ("A Story of Vengeance") and "Kiseki" ("A Miracle") were considered in America as masterpieces of contemporary drama. Another drama "Chichi Kayeru" ("Father's Return") was put on the stage in London and New York.

The introduction of foreign literature has never been so active as today in Japan. The complete works of Goethe translated into Japanese was published at the same time by two different publishers, the translation being by two different groups of first-rate German scholars. The two publications are now in keen competition. A series of classical drama in eighteen volumes is on the verge of publication. It contains representative masterpieces of the classical dramas of Greece, Rome Italy, England, France, Germany, Russia, Spain and Denmark. Previously a voluminous series of modern drama of sixteen volumes was published and enjoyed a high reputation. Ibsen, Strindberg, Björson, of Northern Europe; Hauptmann, Sudermann, Wedekind of Germany; Schnitzler and Hoffmanstahl of Austria; Maeterlinck of Belgium; D'Annunzio of Italy; and Tchekhov, and Artybasiev of Russia were introduced to Japanese readers. Masterpiecs of the world literature in nineteen volumes and Andersen's fairy tales also have been published.

Shin Katagami known as an authority on Russian literature noted in that field with Shomu Nobori, was compelled to abandon his position as professor of Russian Literature at Waseda University, and went to Russia.

The income of a first-rate Japanese man of letters has of late greatly risen in comparison with the earnings of an average citizen. Even a minister of state gets only ten thousand yen as salary, while the Mayor of Tokio who is thought to be very highly paid receives only twenty thousand yen. The rate paid to a good author is from twenty to twenty-five yen per sheet of copy paper. He commonly contributes to a monthly magazine two hundred sheets or so. Thus he has an income of about five thousand yen per month. Of course, it is admitted that such a large income does not regularly pour into his pocket. Though it may not bear comparison with great writers elsewhere, his income cannot be called small in comparison with that of compatriots in other fields.

In Japan some curious magazines are published. The "Bungei Shunju" is one of them. It was first published in January last year. It sets forth the truth in regard to general topics in the field of literature, and criticism. No fiction is published and rising writers criticise one another, with their own names openly signed.

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From the Japanese Press

Disturbing of Thought.—It is regrettable that moderate thought in Japan is giving way to radical thought, and, to resist it, reactionary thought, observes the *Chugai-Shogyo* in its editorial of April 1st. Unless the cause and motive are scrutinized and the new thoughts are rooted out quickly, and healthy thought fostered, it might jeopardize the existence of the present national constitution.

The World War had serious effects on the world's popular thoughts, producing ripples which changed considerably the political, economic and international situation in each country. The effect varied according to country, but several years after the war the abnormalities subsided and the national fortunes were stabilized in most counrties, where national thought has been tending towards moderateness of late. It is but natural that Japan also should have been affected by the disturbances of thought in Europe, which has no state boundaries and no barrier to stay it. It is surprising, however, the paper continues, that the popular thought is more shaken in Japan than in European countries, except one or two of them, where it has been extraordinarily perilous, despite Japan having enjoyed great economic prosperity during the war, far from being involved in its disasters and the Japanese having been proud of their healthy thought and sound spirit since ancient times.

As an outcome of this disturbance of national thought, the people in Japan have been liable to make a fuss politically or economically without any sound reason and to commit rash acts which testifies to the weakness of the nati nal spirit and is most deplorable. Desires for extension of political or economic rights are not blameworthy, if they are theoretically right and means to realize them are moderate and rational. On the other hand, attempts to attain the object by abnormal and violent action to bring about abrupt change, regardless of the conditions of the country, while a rosy picture is painted so as to draw public sympathy, must be looked on with the utmost caution as destructive of order and retarding the healthy progress of the nation. It is lamentable that not a few scholars and politicians are inclined towards the spreading of these thoughts or the leading of the agitation, instead of guiding impartially the nation along the right path.

The aggravation of public thought in Japan is more on account of the uneasiness of life caused by the adverse economic reaction after the war rather than effects received from the same change of thought abroad. This makes it of paramount importance for the Government to modify its economic policy as a means to fundamentally correct mistaken thought.

One Way to Preserve Peace.—An international opportunity of a super-boundary is being opened for the world, while the statesmen of every power are taking pains for protecting one nation or one country, limited by boundaries, by the barrier of a guaranty of safety, a military union or armaments. That is economic internationalism, or economic internationalizati n. The progress of material civili-

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zation has made politics inseparable from economies, argues the *Osaka Asahi* in its editorial of April 2nd. The world's great problems are becoming economic instead of political, and economic internalization allows no country in the world to stand isolated, even the politically isolated countries being unable to stand economically alone, a good example of which is the United States, which cannot stand economically aloof from other countries, while she is sticking to her national policy not to meddle with political questions in Europe.

Not only that, but the United States is the positive leader of the agitation for economic internationalization. She is trying to hold the world's economic supremacy as England is doing, and is taking on active part an the economic stage not only in Europe but in Asia. The economic unification of the world's political questions is making the isolation diplomacy of England and America meaningless. Economic and financial development transcends necessarily diplomatic relations.

The paper welcomes economic internatiolization as a way to the highest ideal of the preservation of the world's peace, for it is above boundaries by itself and makes narrow-minded nationalism and attendant extreme militarism meaningless. There are two ways for preserving the world's peace, observes the paper, one of which is complete preparation for war within the limits a country's finances permit or to ally with one or more countries with common interests against an imaginary common enemy; and the other is to minimize armaments and to throw open boundaries to free intercourse, leaving the settlement of international complications to the judgement of the League of Nations. In order to make the League of Nations so authoritative, its members must vest it with a part of their sovereignty, which is opposed by the United States. For the same reason, England objects to the peace protocol of Geneva. England and America are attempting to attain the above object without entrusting their sovereignty in the least to another party, and it is the agitation for economic internationalization.

The paper looks forward with certainty to a time, when peace in the world will be preserved by an international agreement of a super-boundary. This is, however, the ultimate ideal, before which there will be changes in the situation, and even a reversal of it. Those who hope for the ultimate happiness of mankind should not be disappointed at this temporary reversal, which will presage the complete development of the pacifist movement. The world's great questions are shifting gradually from politics to economics, which is a stepping-stone for the preservation of peace by the international cooperative principle, for the internationalization of economics and finances will allow no country to be isolated any longer under narrow-minded nationalism.

The age of the armed defence of frontiers is passing, giving way to that of a contest between capital and labour, which the paper welcomes rather than barbarous massacres by narraw-minded nationalism, for that is a social problem, which admits of solution and reconciliation, and the changing of the object of international contests from political questions to social questions is thought to be a preliminary step toward the realization of the above means for the preservation of peace.

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The Proposed Second Disarmament Conference and Japan.—President Coolidge is said to have decided to convene the second disarmament conference. He will doubtlessly do all he can to carry out the decision, the *Jiji* argues in its editorial of April 2nd, for he has courage to execute a daring policy and it is his last tenure of office, although the present political situation in Europe and some other questions will make the proposal not so easy of realization. Japan heartily supports the conference in principle and is ready to limit her armaments further, if under a quite fair standard, for every nation has long been under an unbearably heavy burden of armaments and nothing is a more dreadful menace to international peace than the arousing of the war fever by armament rivalry and there can be no reason for hesitation to co-operate for the accomplishment of the object of disarmament, which will insure international peace and tend to mitigate the national burden.

Some people are opposed to armament limitation, mostly on the ground of the narrow old nationality. Egoistic nationalism at the present moment of complicated international relations cannot but be said to be seclusionism. Such an idea is inpractical to-day. A part of the Japanese people are strongly opposed to the international co-ordination principle, emphasizing the unreliability of foreign countries. We cannot, however, be mistaken in the fair judgement of a policy for dealing with the world's general situation. It must be Japan's policy towards the world hereafter to make voluntary efforts toward giving up armament strife and for solidifying the foundation of international peace. Internationalism does not of course mean the destruction of the fundamental principle of national independence, but aims at the stabilization of international life and at international co-operation with a higher object and a more lofty ideal than in the past. There ought to be no internationalism without the promise of a nation, while nationalism ignoring international relations is nonsense. The internationalism, which will firmly establish our international position, must be the great aim of our diplomacy, which also ought to be the fundamental object of our attitude towards the question of the second disarmament conference.

Question of Actual Life.—The *Tokyo Nichi-Nichi* in its editorial of April 21st urges the Government to take steps for the prompt solution of the question of the actual life of the nation, now that the Diet session is over and the cloudy political situation has cleared up. There are numerous things to be accomplished for this object, the most important of which is to stabilize and improve proletarian life.

The paper wishes to know what measures have been taken by the Government for meeting the hard times and the instability of the national life, existing since the end of the war. It fails to find, however, any important and permanent means adopted by the Government in this direction, but something for regulating commodities and straining the money market, which were, however, only temporarizing, more important questions for the relief and protection of the proletarians, such as mitigation of the national consumption and local taxes, being left out of consideration. Moreover, nothing worthy of note has been done for the protection of labour and the relief of the unemployed, while there has been much aggravation of the problem.

Nearly all steps taken for the accommodation of industrial and other funds have been unsuccessful, too. The central bank has not changed its rates for a long time. Nor has the Government taken a thorough measure for remedying the unfavourable balance of foreign trade. The fall and fluctuations of the yen have

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made foreign trade an object of speculation and has entailed a heavy loss on the nation.

In the agricultural community, too, there is a serious land question, menacing the foundation of the national life.

The first thing to do for the solution of the question of the actual life of the nation must be to lighten the heavy burden of the proletariat, in the opinion of the paper. The intended taxation re-adjustment plan by the Government should realize the great purposes of social policy.

Next come the prevention and relief of unemployment. Not a few of these, who were thrown out of employment by the stringency of the money market after the earthquake, have committed crimes, threatening the life of the Tokyo citizens. The matter is too serious to be left as it is. The Government got the approval of the Diet to appropriate an amount of money for the statistical investigation of unemployment. The paper thinks it more urgent to remove the social crimes and dangers caused by the loss of employment with the money than to do the investigation work. The paper wishes the Government to introduce in next session of the Diet a bill for labour insurance.

For the middle class people, industrial or tradal obstacles should be removed, by striking out the obstructive sections in the Business Tax and rationalizing the company tax.

The Government has been busy taking emergency and temporary relief measures since 1920 and less of permanent economic means for stabilizing the actual life of the nation. The paper emphasizes in conclusion that the present Ministry is no less liable for the solution of the latter question than for the manhood suffrage and Upper House questions, if not more so.

Lowering of the Bank of Japan's Rate.—On April 14th, the Bank of Japan reduced its rates by 0.2 sen, solving at last the much-talked-of question in the financial world. It is welcomed by *The Chugai Shogyo* in its editorial of April 15th as stimulating business enterprises and brightening their future prospects.

Japan's economic world has undergone marked changes in the past decade, says the paper. The great wartime tradal prosperity had a severe reaction, which made it hard to re-adjust the econmic world with the expansion of enterprises and credit and the intensity of speculating mania. To make things worse, the earthquake occurred, shocking the economic world. In the circumstances, the central bank could not for long find an opportunity to alter its interest policy and to give an impetus to trade.

The Kato Ministry has been endeavouring to re-adjust the administrative and financial affairs of the state and has adopted an improved loan policy, which has had the effect of mitigating the financial press are on the money market. At the same time, the re-adjustment of business enterprises has made progress and the money market has emerged from the abnormal situation, caused by the earthquake. Foreign trade shows considerable improvement, with a great increase in exports, and the foreign exchange is on the way to recovery. These facts tell of the successful resistance of Japan's economic world to the stress of the dangerous reactionary period and of hope for recovery.

The money market has not been appreciably effected by the large amount of money required recently for the payment of various takes, the Bank of Japan's general loans standing only at something like 250,000,000 yen and the convertible note issue at 1,100,000,000 odd yen, the smallest recorded since the earthquake. Consquently, the money rates, which had long been above the central bank's lowest rates, have slackened off.

For the first three months of this year, the excess of imports over exports amounted to 300,600,000 yen, but raw cotton and other important imports have arrived nearly in sufficiency for the present season. On the other hand, the exports increased about 130,000,000 yen over the same interval, in 1924, despite the fall of the exchange, and raw silk, cotton facrics, etc. are increasing in volume. The lowering of the central bank's rates is timely, concludes the paper.

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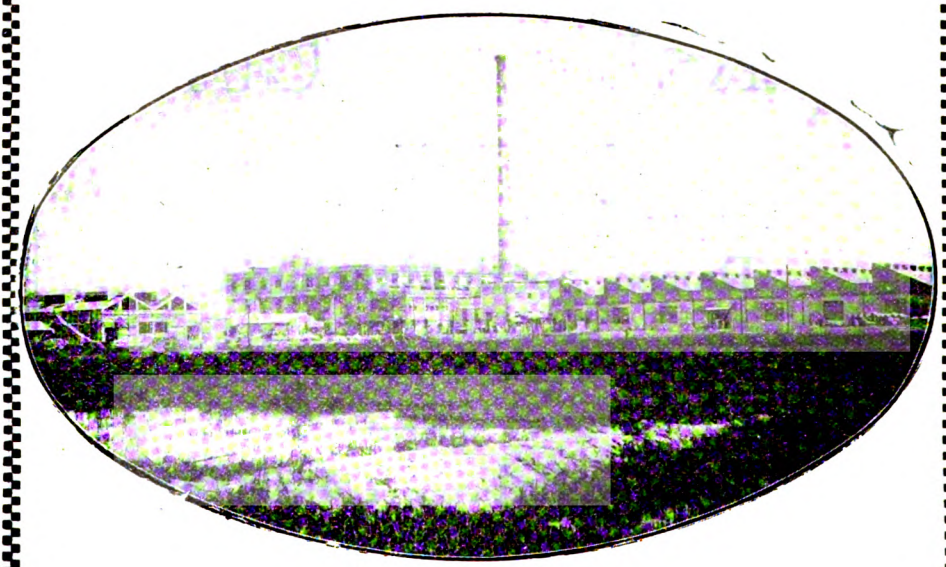

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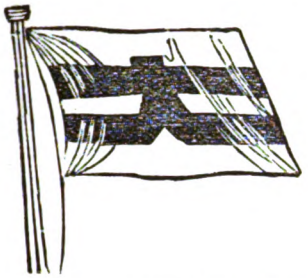

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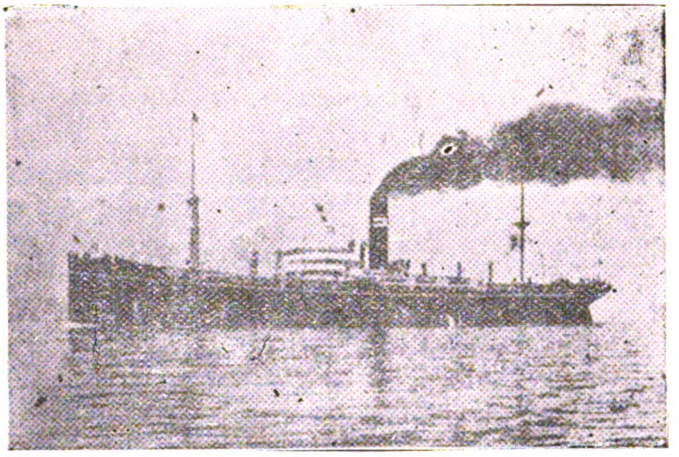

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